As is customary, the contributions and service of several faculty members were recognized at the annual opening faculty meeting in August 2016. Dr. Barbara Lyman, provost and executive vice president, presented the Provost’s Award for Extraordinary Service. The award is given for exemplary accomplishments in teaching, research/scholarly activities, and/or service. The recipient this year was Dr. Gerald Fowler, associate professor of educational leadership. Fowler was chosen for exceptional service and leadership in several distinct areas: development of the Ed.D. in Educational Leadership, the unique Leadership Residency program, providing instructional support to high poverty school districts, the creation of the Educational Leadership Gateway – an interactive, service-oriented website, and the development of internet supported program resources for faculty and students.

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 other faculty units 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. Dr. Laurie Cella, associate professor of English was recognized for the course titled: ENG 420: Studies in Writing for its facilitation of collaboration among faculty, students, and the community and for learning experiences outside the classroom.

(Continued on page 3)
Welcome Aboard, New Faculty!

Shippensburg University welcomed new tenure track faculty in Fall 2016. The campus

**John L. Grove College of Business**

**Dr. Huilan Zhang** – Associate Professor in Accounting/MIS. Dr. Zhang received her Ph.D. in Manufacturing and Technology Management from the University of Toledo. Prior to this appointment, she was an instructor at the University of Toledo.

**Dr. Otso Massala** – Associate Professor in Finance/Supply Chain Mgt. Dr. Massala received his Ph.D. in Management from INSEAD, France/Singapore. Prior to this appointment, he both taught and was a Ph.D. program ambassador for INSEAD.

**Library and Media Services**

**Ms. Marguerite Savadakis-Dunn** – Assistant Professor in the Library. Ms. Savadakis-Dunn received her M.L.S. from the University of South Carolina. Prior to this appointment, she was the Borrowing Coordinator at Clemson University.

**New Doctorate Programs @ SU**

Shippensburg University recently added two new doctoral programs to its degree offerings: an Ed.D. in Counselor Education and Supervision and a D.B.A. in Business Administration.

The professional doctorate in Counselor Education and Supervision is a 60-credit part-time program designed to enhance advanced practice and clinical supervision expertise in its students. The primary audience for the degree includes licensed, or license-eligible, professionals currently working in the field. Courses, which will begin in Fall 2017, are offered both online and face-to-face on Saturdays, allowing students to continue employment as they pursue their degree. The program is offered in the cohort model with members taking coursework together over a three-year period; additional time may be required to complete and defend their dissertations.

The Doctorate of Business Administration, another professional doctorate, is a 54-credit program which includes two years of classroom-based instruction and a third year dedicated to individual research. The program is designed to attract students from a wide array of business backgrounds for whom the degree would facilitate advancement in their career, consulting opportunities, or a career in higher education. The programming is flexible and classes meet on weekends to better accommodate the needs of working professionals.

Shippensburg’s D.B.A. is the only AACSB-accredited program at a public university in Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, and Washington, DC. Classes are expected to begin in 2018.

Shippensburg University is excited to offer these high quality programs to professionals in the region and anticipates graduates will have an enormous positive impact in their communities and chosen professions.

**SU mascot, Big Red, visits with Dr. Bob Ziegenfuss, associate professor at teacher education, and prospective students and families at the SU Teacher Education Fair.**

Facility & staff of the John L. Grove College of Business prepare for the new DBA program.
Dr. Jerry Carbo, associate professor of management, was recognized for the course titled: MGT 342: Labor Relations for its significant evidence of diverse and authentic measures to evaluate student outcomes and for innovative use of technology to provide students with practical experiences. Dr. Lynn Baynum, associate professor of teacher education, was recognized for the course RDG 363: Reading & Writing in Grades One to Four for its significant evidence of diverse and authentic measures to evaluate student outcomes and for innovative use of technology to foster student engagement. Dr. Sally Paulson, professor of exercise science, was recognized for the course ESC 393: Group Exercise Instruction for its extensive use of field experiences and for collaboration among students, faculty, and the community. Dr. Christy Fic, assistant professor of the library and the university’s archivist, was recognized for the innovative and immersive archival experience created to support HIS 358 American Environmental History, including for her use of technology to attain instructional goals, learning experiences outside the classroom, and significant collaboration among faculty and students.

The provost also presented Academic Affairs Assessment Team (AAAT) recognition of two academic departments for their accomplishments in incorporating outcomes-assessment activities into their curricula. The departments were selected through a multi-stage review of all departmental assessment reports submitted to the AAAT. The Communication/Journalism department was recognized for the “Best Use of Assessment Results” category; the History/Philosophy department was recognized for the “Most Improved” category. Both departments were awarded $500 in professional development funds.

Congratulations to all whose diligence and dedication were recognized!

The Academic Innovation Grant Program funds projects that engage in a study of the challenges and barriers to student success in critical courses, and design and implement new strategies to overcome such barriers and improve student success. Teams of faculty or individual faculty members are encouraged to submit proposals that meet any of those goals. Projects should also align with the strategic goals and plans of department, college, school, and university. The program is open to all tenured and tenure-track faculty.

The Academic Innovation Grant Program has funded a number of initiatives, across all academic colleges, over the past several years. Curt Zaleski, professor of chemistry, served as an Academic Innovation leader on a grant awarded to the chemistry department. “The AI (Academic Innovation) grant has given our department an opportunity to evaluate how we present general chemistry to our students. Through the grant we have been given the freedom to experiment with classroom delivery and how we assist students outside the classroom. A hallmark of the first year of the grant is the newly created Chemistry Resource Center (CRC),” said Zaleski. “The grant has provided funding so that we can hire tutors specifically for general chemistry. The tutors consist of chemistry, biology, and physics majors who previously did well in general chemistry. In addition, the faculty who teach general chemistry hold their office hours in the CRC. This creates a setting which is less intimidating for the students, and we as faculty are able to help a greater number of students.” Faculty members interested in learning more about the program should contact Dr. Jim Delle, associate dean of Arts & Sciences, at jadelle@ship.edu.
Minds@Work Conference: A Showcase of Student Research

Above: Student researchers share their work with faculty, administrators, fellow students, and community members at the Celebration of Student Research. Below: Jacalyn Rosenberger, Jennifer Hoover

A signature academic experience available to Shippensburg University students is the opportunity to participate in undergraduate and graduate research. The experience of designing a project and conducting research under the guidance of a faculty mentor allows students to further develop skills which can assist them in achieving their academic and professional goals. The research and creative projects produced by over 400 students were showcased at the annual Minds@Work Conference, held on April 25, 2017. During the conference, students participated in oral presentations, panel discussions, symposiums, and poster presentations.

Student presenters were quick to discuss their projects, including aspects of the research process, with members of the university community. Jacalyn Rosenberger started planning her project, The Effects of Prescribed Burning on Mammal and Tick Abundance in Southcentral Pennsylvania, sponsored by Dr. Richard Stewart, professor of biology, in December and started collecting data in February. She says the experience has given her an appreciation for the preparation and planning needed in order to conduct successful projects. Jennifer Hoover, who also was mentored by Dr. Stewart on her project, The Abundance of Corbicula fluminea and Trace Metal Contamination in a Pennsylvania Waterway, enjoyed pioneering research in an area not heavily explored and felt the field work was particularly rewarding. When she inquired about ways to get more field work experience, Jenna Antonelli was encouraged by her advisor, Dr. Sean Cornell, associate professor of geography/earth science, to pursue a research project. She was a recipient of an Undergraduate Research Grant for her work, Revisiting Barrier Island
Beach Infiltration Rates and In Situ Porosity Measures Four Years Post-replenishment at NASA’s Wallops Flight Facilities, Wallops Island, Virginia, which helped to pay for her trips to Wallops Island as well as her participation and travel to a conference in Pittsburgh. Antonelli sees that skills she honed during the process— including data collection, organization, presentation, and technical skills — will be key for her successfully finding a career in her field of choice. Aaron Einstein and Craig Yetter also worked with Dr. Cornell and Antonelli on their project, Projecting Future Sea Level Rise in Spanish Water Bay, Curacao and its Implications for Future Development of the Land. They felt they really enhanced their ability to apply what they learned in class, “getting from ideas in your head to a finished product,” as well as increased technical skills that will help them when they hit the job market.

Student researchers were also quick to point out the benefits and helpfulness of their faculty mentors. James Korman’s project, The Exploitation of Immigrants in the United States, emerged from a project started in a class. Korman emphatically declared that his faculty sponsor, Dr. Robert Lesman, associate professor of modern languages, is “one of the best faculty members around” and that he learned a lot from him during this process. Skills he took away from this experience include how to really focus and dig deep into a topic as well as how to find resources in dual languages. Aziza Kasmi credited the guidance of her faculty sponsor, Dr. Kyle Heim, assistant professor of communication/journalism, with the success of her project, Campus Safety and Security: How Students Interact with Security Personnel, which she completed with Alex Coombs. “Dr. Heim was very great at explaining the process,” she said, “so we could get through the whole project.” Dr. Heim himself was also impressed with the work his students produced. It was his first year participating as a faculty sponsor and he expressed great pride in the effort put forth by his students.

It is also rewarding for the researchers when they know their work will have an impact beyond the end of their project. Erin Feaser, Dylan Smith, James Smith, and Allison Wilson all worked on a project sponsored by Dr. Brian Wentz, associate professor of accounting/MIS, and Dr. June Pham, associate professor of finance/SCM. Beyond the skills learned in the process, especially time management and teamwork, they were excited by the fact that their project, Accessibility Evaluations of 100 Banking and Finance Websites in the United States, will have an impact beyond the classroom and actually help people in the “real world.” Olivia Guerin’s project, Feasibility of Undergraduate Courses in American Sign Language and Deaf Studies, has been shared with Dr. James Mike, Dean of the College of Arts & Sciences, at his request, as a resource to use when evaluating potential programs—and she is absolutely thrilled!

(Continued on Page 8)
So, what advice do conference participants have for fellow students contemplating research opportunities? Marissa Fazekas, whose project was *An Explanation of Motivating Language Theory and Its Influence on Workplace Decision Making*, sponsored by Dr. Kyle Heim, says, “definitely do it, but do it on something you are passionate about.” Ebithal Shaban, also sponsored by Heim for *How Is Social Media Helping Nonprofit Organizations Reach College Students?*, advises students to “be ready to read – a thorough literature review is necessary so you do not duplicate work already done.” Gabrielle Trinkle and Nathaneal Skroban, who worked on *An Assessment of Completion and Recidivism Rates at the AMEND Program*, sponsored by Dr. Michael Lyman, professor of social work/gerontology, encouraged as many students as possible to participate in research. Trinkle added, “people are more capable than they think they are.”

Congratulations to all of our outstanding researchers and to their dedicated faculty sponsors! Thanks are also due to the Shippensburg University Institute for Public Service, the Dean of Arts & Sciences’ Advisory Council for Undergraduate Research Committee, and the Graduate Research Grant Advisory Committee for their efforts to ensure a successful conference.
Graffiti Bustin’: It Takes A Community

Dr. Sean Cornell, associate professor of geography/earth science, has used the Hammonds Rocks area of the Michaux State Forest as field site for multiple geology classes over the past eleven years. Its unique formations and proximity to the university make it particularly well-suited for teaching geology. Unfortunately, it has also been used as a party site for a number of years; the accelerated misuse in the last decade has negatively impacted educational and positive outdoor recreational opportunities. Broken bottles by the thousands, cans, trash, and more compromised the safety of the location; a growing graffiti problem obscured the rock formations and hindered their educational uses.

So started the movement to stop, and possibly reverse, the damage to Hammonds Rocks. Two years ago, students in the Geography Earth Science Organization received permission from Pennsylvania’s Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) to conduct a trash clean-up of the area. The result was over 25 large bags of trash being removed. An additional result was the discovery of two species of lizards living in the area – at least one of which was reproducing. The group turned to Dr. Pablo Delis, professor of biology, to confirm identifications of the lizards. Delis also shared the findings with DCNR. Soon, a larger partnership was born when Cornell was contacted by Marci Mowery, president of the PA Parks and Forests Foundation, about conducting a large scale clean-up of Hammonds Rocks, along with other areas in the Michaux State Forest. During the first annual StewardSHIP Week in spring 2016, over the summer of 2016, and again during Fall 2016 Welcome Week’s Day of Service, Shippensburg University students, faculty, staff, and alumni joined residents and state forest employees and tackled the daunting task. Due to their combined efforts, dump trucks full of trash were removed, hundreds of pounds worth of broken glass, nails, wire, and metal were hauled out, and nearly 7,000 square feet of graffiti was cleaned off of the rocks. Some of the graffiti was easy to reach; some not so and required special rope riggings to reach.

The efforts were herculean, and did not go unnoticed. They served as a kick-off to a new statewide initiative, called Stewards of Penn’s Woods, which aims to encourage residents to become involved in the care and conservation of the state forests and parks. The “Graffiti Busters,” as the group became known, were awarded the President’s Award at the PA Parks and Forests Foundation annual banquet in May 2017.

This partnership and collaboration between the university, the state, and local residents netted impressive results. Even with all that has already been accomplished, their work is not yet done. Plans are in place to further enhance Hammonds Rocks for both formal and informal educational opportunities. SU faculty, staff, and students are again partnering with DCNR to develop interpretive signs as well as a series of trails which connect the site to other trails.

Photos courtesy of Dr. Sean Cornell & PA Parks & Forests Foundation
“No man is an island, entire of itself; every man is a piece of the continent.”
- John Donne

In reviewing this edition of the newsletter, I felt that the theme to emphasize is: great things happen as we work together. Departments worked together with administration and consultants to introduce exciting, new degree programs. Over 400 students worked with faculty mentors to produce original research and creative projects, which were displayed at this year’s Minds@Work conference. Faculty members worked together to find ways to integrate innovative ideas into their programs of study. Students, faculty, staff, and alumni teamed up with state workers and community members to combat graffiti and other signs of misuse at a local state park.

All of these activities drive the Shippensburg University Academic Master Plan (AMP). As stated in the Mission Statement, student learning is at the center of the academic mission of SU and the personal attention given to each student both inside and outside of the classroom reflects that philosophy. Student-faculty research, service learning, collaborative classroom settings, team-based projects, and similar opportunities all foster student learning and development.

Goals for the next five years include providing “a curriculum and other learning experiences that creatively address the changing needs of a diverse, technology-based, global society,” cultivating “a learning-centered environment to facilitate students’ intellectual growth and success,” and fostering “a stimulating scholarly environment for students, faculty, and staff that advances knowledge and that enhances the quality of the curriculum,” to name but a few.

As you renew yourself for AY17-18, reconnect with AMP to determine the great things you will be a part of as we continue to work together.

And Now a Word from Our Sponsor....
Tracy Schoolcraft, Acting Provost and VP for Academic Affairs