The annual Shippensburg University Celebration of Student Research Conference was held on April 22, 2014. Through poster sessions, roundtables, symposia, panel sessions, performances, and oral presentations, nearly 400 students from across all university disciplines showcased their research and creative works.

The opportunity to participate in undergraduate research is one of the key academic opportunities available to SU students. For the student researchers, working with professors on specialized projects of their own choosing is a valuable experience. Jared Miller, mid-level teacher education major, credited his mentor, Christopher Keyes, assistant professor of teacher education, with helping direct the data analysis in his project, which in turn allowed Miller’s skill set to grow in leaps and bounds. Social work majors Farrah Yarwood, Angela D’Ambrosio, Kimberly Suddith, and Payton Vinson praised the guidance provided to them by Dr. Marita Flagler, associate professor of social work. “Dr. Flagler made the process more manageable,” said Vinson. Suddith agreed, adding, “that helped reduce our anxiety and led us to a successful conclusion.” Dr. Flagler admitted that she can be “pushy to get students out of their comfort zone,” but then she guides them in that new territory. She was very pleased with the results and felt her students represented themselves well at the conference.

Participating in undergraduate research allows students to learn and/or put into practice skills that will help them not only during their academic careers here at Shippensburg but also make them more competitive for advanced degree programs and when they enter the job market. According to Meghan Kozlowski,
psychology major and criminal justice minor, her communication skills greatly improved. She gained the confidence to present and speak to various sized audiences. Samuel Benson, criminal justice major, pointed to critical thinking, case analysis, methods of illustrating data, and actual data collection all as skills in which he improved during the course of his project.

Several student researchers were also eager to have the opportunity to apply classroom knowledge to the world at large. Danielle Taylor and Megan Plume, social work majors, were able to put theories into action by assisting local support agencies identify what they truly need, to provide focus to their efforts. Both found that to be extremely rewarding. Julia Saintz, geo-environmental and history major, commented that her project allowed her to draw conclusions from historical primary documents and then see the “big picture” beyond those documents. She plans on expanding her research by using the methods and skills learned in this project and applying them to a more contemporary subject.

The Celebration of Student Research event itself is a beneficial experience for the participants. For several students, the conference is their first professional presentation; many will also go on to participate in various regional, state, and national conferences “This is a really cool experience. I am glad I did it,” said math major Linzy Hull. “Being able to speak about my topic to colleagues and other audiences is a valuable skill.”

Heartfelt congratulations to all of our outstanding student researchers and to their dedicated faculty sponsors! Thanks are also due to the Shippensburg University Institute for Public Service and Sponsored Programs, the Dean of Arts and Science’ Advisory Council for Undergraduate Research Committee, and the Graduate Research Grant Advisory Committees for their efforts to ensure a successful conference. We also thank the SU Foundation and Interim President Harpster for ongoing support.
Shippensburg University Field Study in China

This summer, a group of 14 students traveled to China as part of the geography/earth science department’s Field Studies in China course. Taught by Dr. George Pomeroy and Dr. Jennifer Pomeroy, the students were in China for 20 days. While there, they participated in a variety of language and cultural classes and expeditions. They also had the opportunity to interact with local teachers and administrators, both at Shijiazhuang No. 25 High School and at East China Normal University, which provided support to the group. Dr. Amy Diehl, associate vice president, Technology and Library Services, and Vincent Rink, Spanish major, shared their blogs about their amazing trip. Rink was particularly impressed with Emperor Qin’s Terracotta Army as well as the Yuyuan Gardens – “China has preserved and restored their past so well that you almost step into the past when entering places such as this.” Diehl summed up the experience by noting, “This trip has stretched me and the students who participated and helped us all to develop cross-cultural competence…China is truly a beautiful country with beautiful people.”

Education Dual Certification Now at SU

As of Fall 2014, students will be able to participate in a new dual certification BSED program from PreK-4 elementary education and special education PreK-8. Approved by the Pennsylvania Department of Education, students completing the program will earn certifications in both fields. Prior to this program, students wishing to have multiple certifications would have had to pursue the second certification in graduate school. The program will also position its graduates for success in today’s job market where dual certification will make them even more attractive to employers. Ultimately, graduates will be eligible to teach preschool through eighth grade.

The program is 135 credits, which can be completed in 9 semesters. Students will learn how to work not only with typical students in elementary school classrooms, but also with students having various disabilities. The dual certification program students will have hands on field experiences in a variety of classroom settings. There are resources on campus, such as the Grace B. Luhrs University Elementary School and the Bartos Child & Family Center, that provide unique educational experiences for students enrolled in the program.

This new program is the result of the collaborative efforts of several faculty members. Dr. Kent Chrisman, professor of early childhood education; Dr. Kelly Carrero, assistant professor of special education; Dr. Chris Schwilk, associate professor of special education; Dr. Annie Papero, assistant professor of teacher education; and Dr. Laureen Nelson, assistant professor of teacher education, provided the countless hours of work that went into crafting the program requirements, aligning them with PDE competencies, and supporting the program from creation through the final approval process. Their efforts have diversified the academic program portfolio of the university as well as drawn the interest of numerous students.
Shippensburg University’s Fulbright Scholars

Shippensburg University faculty and students received three Fulbright Program awards in the last two years. As it is a highly competitive and selective program, receiving these awards is quite an accomplishment.

Dr. Steve Burg, professor and chair of the history/philosophy department, received a 2013-2014 Fulbright Scholar grant to research and lecture in Sweden during the Fall 2013 semester. Hosted by the University of Gothenburg, Burg offered classes and workshops on U.S. history and historic preservation. He also conducted research in the surrounding area, looking at burial grounds as reflections of immigration patterns. “My favorite experience was teaching American history to Swedish students...and particularly exploring the way that American museums address sensitive topics such as war and slavery. They asked questions and raised points that were very different than those that would be raised by my students at Shippensburg University, and it forced me to stop and think about teaching and history in new ways,” said Burg. “I also really enjoyed exploring the history of Gothenburg’s Old Jewish Cemetery...It was particularly interesting to think about the similarities and differences that existed between the Swedish cemetery and African-American cemeteries I have studied in the United States.”

Dr. Kurt Kraus, professor and chair of the counseling and college student personnel department, was awarded a 2014-2015 Fulbright Scholar grant. Kraus will be stationed in the Kingdom of Bhutan where he will teach at the Royal University of Bhutan. He will also consult with the Ministries of Health and Education on counseling services to address the nation’s mental and public health needs. Kraus will be sharing various ideas and methods of counseling, all adapted to fit the culture in Bhutan, with which he has gained knowledge from previous professional experiences in Bhutan.

Ethan Goldbach, senior double major in history and international studies, with minors in both music and anthropology, received a 2014-2015 Fulbright English Teaching Assistant Program award. Goldbach will be in Malaysia for 10 months. After he has some basic training in the Malay language, he will spend 20-30 hours per week in a school assisting teachers and participating in school-related activities.

Congratulations to all of our Fulbright Scholars – you are indeed ScholarSHIP in action in international venues!
Reach Out Students Win Target Competition

Representing the Honors Program’s Reach Out Initiative, Jazmine Hall and Shelby Coghill won the On Target Undergraduate Case Competition. They decided to donate their entire prize check of $2000 to the Reach Out Initiative, a service learning project the Honors Program sponsors in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. “Jazmine and Shelby exemplify the academic and professional excellence and the selfless commitment to service that we strive to cultivate in our students!” said Dr. Kim Klein, professor of history and director of the Honors Program.

Sponsored by Target Corporation and Shippensburg University’s Career Center as well as Small Business Development Center, teams of 2-4 students were given a case which they were to resolve as “consultants” for Target. Teams submitted written and PowerPoint reports for judging. The top five teams identified through the initial judging then presented their findings and fielded questions from a panel of judges.

The top three teams were awarded monetary prizes. The second place team was Christin Gardiner and Alexandra Capecci of ENACTUS; American Marketing Association’s team of Joshua Rudley, Carrie Sheaffer, & Ryan Wells were awarded third place.

New MBA Concentrations @ SU

There are new options available for students in Shippensburg University’s Master of Business Administration (MBA) degree program. Beginning in Fall 2014, they can opt to add either a Management Information Systems or a Supply Chain Management concentration to their degree.

In order to meet the diverse needs of the growing student population in the John L. Grove College of Business, the MBA program is offered in a variety of formats, including part-time, full-time, and online. Thanks to video conferencing technology, students can also take coursework in remote locations, including Dixon University Center (Harrisburg), York Learning Center (York), and East Stroudsburg University. The addition of the specialty concentrations provides even more options to meet those students’ needs.

For information on the MBA program at Shippensburg University, please contact the MBA Office at 717-477-1483 or MBA@ship.edu.
Shippensburg students performed exceptionally well at the third annual Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education (PASSHE) Student Business Plan Competition. Over 140 student teams representing all PASSHE universities participated this year. “The winning entries demonstrate the incredible ingenuity and imagination of our students,” stated PASSHE Chancellor Frank T. Brogan. Out of four awards presented, three went to Shippensburg University students.

First place went to the team of Dustin Lowry, Daniel Machlanski, and Chris Goldy for Oak Hill Farm Naturals, which produces an all-natural fly repellent for horses. Their business plan used focused marketing and stressed customer service. This combination has proven to be very successful for them as not only did they win this competition, but Oak Hill Farm Naturals had a fiscally profitable first year of operation. The team was awarded $10,000 to help further develop the business.

Second place went to Noah Kline and Zach Britcher for “Reccelerator,” a recreational facility management software they developed. The cloud-based management system will allow facilities to track membership and equipment; it can also provide analytical reports based on that tracking. Requiring only a web browser, the product is fast and easy to use. The team was awarded $5,000 to further develop the product.

Justin Grosz was presented the Student Choice Award. Grosz’s “Help Just in Time” proposal was for a personalized online tutoring service for students. Help would be available via email, video, or live-feed tutoring; various plans would be available for students to purchase, ranging from single question to subscription.

“{The winning entries demonstrate the incredible ingenuity and imagination of our students.”
- PASSHE Chancellor Frank T. Brogan

Faculty Advisors Welcome Incoming Students at Orientation

Each summer during New Student Orientation, faculty members work with incoming students to ensure they are scheduling classes appropriate to the students’ academic goals. This interaction also allows students to meet some of their professors, and vice versa, before classes begin. Thank you to the many faculty members who worked numerous hours to welcome our students and ensure they “are on the right track,” academically speaking!
And Now A Word From Our Sponsor....
Barbara G. Lyman, Provost & Senior VP for Academic Affairs

“It's a magical world, Hobbes, ol' buddy...Let's go exploring!”
~ Calvin (Bill Watterson’s Calvin & Hobbes)

Latitude: 40.0581451 North, Longitude: -77.5222092 West. This is Shippensburg University’s corner of this magical, awe-inducing world. This is not to say, however, that we are confined to a corner or defined only by our physical location. Given tremendous synergies evident at Shippensburg University, it is fair to say that our location is both a corner and a crossroads where much transpires. The fact that much transpires here is evident from accomplishments in at least five areas of:

1. Navigating by the Academic Master Plan
2. Diversifying the Academic Program Portfolio
3. Advancing Strategic Enrollment Management
4. Expanding High Impact Educational Practices
5. Assuring Quality via Program Review & Accreditation

In this edition of the newsletter, attention will be called primarily to the reach of Shippensburg University beyond its physical borders. Before doing so, however, it is important to call attention to just a few examples suggesting that we are distinguishing ourselves in multiple ways and innovating based on the tremendous expertise, dedication, and talent of our faculty, staff, and our promising students. To illustrate, in this column, I will foreground a mere handful of the FIRSTs, BESTs, and ONLYs which show that the nexus of learning and innovation that is Shippensburg University goes far beyond the limits that may be implied by our geographic coordinates.

Navigating by the Academic Master Plan (AMP)

Not every institution has one and our own AMP is SU’s first master plan for academic affairs. Under AMP Goal 1, Objective 8, we aspire to “Provide pathways for the development of innovative programs, courses, and core experiences.” As the metrics being established by the newly formed (Spring 2014) AMP Steering will demonstrate, we are indeed living up to this aspiration. Thus, SU’s AMP is not a dormant “on the shelf” document but an active navigation system by which we sail ahead!

Diversifying the Academic Program Portfolio

It would be foolhardy for any institution to throw overboard its hard won distinctions and traditional strengths. Protecting the integrity of our vital programs remains a top priority as we also invest in new programs so that all of our offerings stand out in the competitive marketplace of higher education. Thus, we have the amazingly popular and highly needed new dual certification program in Pre-K to 4 and Pre-K to 8 Special Education, built on our proud history as a producer of teachers. We also now offer two new MBA Concentrations: Management Information Systems and Supply Chain Management, delivered in several formats, to meet the varying needs of students who want Shippensburg University programs. Towards further diversification SU’s academic program portfolio, the Council of Trustees approved at its September meeting the proposed Electrical Engineering Program which is poised for favorable review at next month’s Board of Governor’s meeting. As stated in our faculty-driven AMP, and befitting a smart institution like Ship, we are indeed on the move to “Provide pathways for the development of innovative programs, courses, and core experiences.”

Along similar lines, in a future newsletter, I plan to highlight the numerous contributions of PCDE which working with faculty in various departments is adding significantly to diversifying the Ship’s academic program portfolio, via both for-credit and non-credit revenue-generating offerings.

Stabilizing Strategic Enrollment Management

With new leadership in place for one full year in Enrollment Management and newly onboard leadership of a new Dean of Admissions, we are positioned to continue the turnaround of the battleSHIP! Via numerous enrollment initiatives contributed to by many, including our Dean of Academic Engagement and Student Support, we garnered in terms of Performance Funding at the beginning of the past academic year, the 3rd highest points and the 9th largest dollar amount in PASSHE. Perhaps most notably, we increased our Fall 2012 to Fall 2013 FTIC (First-Time-in-College) retention rate by 3%. This suggests the power in our collective hands when we act in concert to challenge, engage, and support students so that they can meet our standards of quality, reach their potential, and live out their dreams to become fully contributing members of our communities.

Expanding High Impact Educational Practices
Our students are noticing that Shippensburg University is an institution distinguished by its greater opportunities to engage in educational experiences that matter for the long haul! On the 2013 administration of the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE), 94% of SU seniors compared to 86% of PASSHE seniors indicated that they had participated in at least one high impact learning experience while at Shippensburg University. As we continue to enhance and scale up high-impact practices, we will see the reputation of Ship for quality of student learning only enhanced over time! We will see this and other payoffs given that students now have not just one but three academic living-learning communities from which to choose (Honors, Biology, and Discover SU [for undeclared students]). Other initiatives of service learning (think the SU Farm!) include the pending establishment of the Center for Community Engaged Learning and Service, thanks to a joint venture between Student Affairs and Academic Affairs.

Assuring Quality via Program Review & Accreditation

Quality cannot simply be assumed but must be demonstrated. Our quality assurance processes, whether the regular Five Year Academic Program Reviews, discipline-based external accreditation reviews, or our institutional reaffirmation of accreditation-related activities, all involve us in peer-review processes for assurance of quality and continuous improvement. In November, we will receive the feedback of the Middle States Commission with regard to Ship’s Periodic Review Report recently submitted at the mid-point of our decennial institutional accreditation cycle. Thanks to the leadership of Dr. Sara Grove and Dr. Tracy Schoolcraft, we presented a forthright assessment of where we stand with regard to Middle States standards, based on an inclusive process of input from the campus community. The response we receive will be used to make Ship that much better and that much stronger as we sail ahead, on a mission!

SU’s reach into the larger world through coursework, such as the Field Studies course in China; through volunteer work, like Reach Out in Santo Domingo; and scholarship, as evidenced by our recent Fulbright Scholars to Sweden, Bhutan, and Malaysia. Shippensburg University is dedicated to preparing its students for life beyond its campus. Part of that preparation is providing high impact educational opportunities for students, in the form of conducting research at both undergraduate and graduate levels. Examples of that research were on display during the Celebration of Student Research held in April. Other examples of our students’ minds at work are readily available at regional, state, and national conferences and in respected journals. For instance, a paper resulting from recent graduate Daniel Hughes’ research, funded by SU’s graduate student research grant program, was recently published in Herpetological Review.

Another aspect of preparing our students for the future is diversifying program offerings in order to better poise our graduates for success. The new dual certification available in elementary education PreK-4 and special education PreK-8 is an example of this. So are the expanded offerings in the MBA program as well as the electrical engineering program proposal.
And Now A Word From Our Sponsor.... continued

Looking out my window, I cannot help but agree with Calvin – it is indeed a magical world. I encourage you not only to further explore that corner of it which is Shippensburg University, but to map out future voyages that go beyond our geographic boundaries! I also deeply thank the faculty for designing and providing high quality learning opportunities to better prepare our students for the challenges and opportunities awaiting them beyond Latitude: 40.0581451 North, Longitude: -77.5222092 West.

The university also looks for ways to serve its local region, and is especially interested in supporting the educational development of local PreK-high school students. For example, for the past 56 years, the mathematics and computer science departments have hosted Shippensburg University’s Annual Math/Computer Day. The event, sponsored in conjunction with the Math Club and the Programming Team, bring high school juniors together to compete in a variety of math and computer science-related events. This year, 57 seven students representing 20 different schools participated.