

Shippensburg University's **Provost Office Press**

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Welcome Aboard, Dr. Barbara Lyman!



The University of West Florida's loss is Shippensburg University's gain. Their former Vice Provost for Academic Programs and Planning, Dr. Barbara G. Lyman, is now SU's new Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs. She officially joined the Shippensburg University family on March 3, 2008.

Dr. Lyman has earned degrees from Anna Maria College (BA in English Literature), Brandeis University (MA in English and American Literature), Harvard University (Certificate of Advanced Study in the Teaching of Reading), and Louisiana State University (PhD in Curriculum and Instruction).

Prior to her new position, Dr. Lyman held a wide variety of academic and administrative positions. She was a faculty member at Oakland University, the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, the University of Delaware, and Texas State University - San Marcos. At San Marcos, she served as a graduate program coordinator, associate director of human resources, and assistant dean then associate dean of the Graduate College. In 2005, she became the Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs at the University of West Florida. Dr. Lyman has also been active beyond the classroom, as evidenced by her participation in various leadership development

development programs and her membership in a number of civic and professional organizations.

What about Shippensburg did Dr. Lyman find appealing enough for her to move from warmer southern climates up to Pennsylvania in the winter? She answered, "I have worked at a number of public comprehensive universities which, like Shippensburg, exist to address the educational, cultural, and economic needs of the region, but Shippensburg inspires a higher than usual degree of engagement and subsequent loyalty. This was one of the things that drew me here."

Ethnic Studies Program Introduces Certificate

"The Ethnic Studies minor also prepares students with the necessary cultural data to employ proper discernment when working with ethnically diverse groups in their professional endeavors."

- Dr. Sharnine Herbert

For students interested in acquiring a greater understanding of historically underrepresented ethnic groups in the United States, Shippensburg University offers an interdisciplinary program in Ethnic Studies. By focusing on aspects of history, culture, and societal contributions, classes in the program not only give students a solid background but also the ability to analyze critically issues related to various ethnic groups. Students have ample opportunity for hands-on multicultural experiences during Student Life Art of Being programs and activities sponsored by the

Multicultural Student Development Center. They are also encouraged to participate in the annual Ethnic Studies Research Colloquium, now in its 12th year, which features original student research and creative endeavors as well as panel discussions on various topics relevant to Ethnic Studies. To earn a minor in Ethnic Studies, students complete 18 credit hours, including three core courses and three electives. A new feature of the program is the Ethnic Studies Certificate. Requiring 12 credit hours, the certificate is perfect for students who do not have the credit hours

available to complete a minor, but are still interested in receiving training in Ethnic Studies. The certificate is rapidly becoming a popular choice with students. "The Ethnic Studies minor is designed to complement a student's current program of study," said Sharnine Herbert, Associate Professor of Human Communication Studies and Director of Ethnic Studies. "The Ethnic Studies minor also prepares students with the necessary cultural data to employ proper discernment when working with ethnically diverse groups in their professional endeavors."



Beta Gamma Sigma Chapter Earns Premier Status

The Shippensburg University Chapter of Beta Gamma Sigma has attained Premier Status. Founded in 1913, Beta Gamma Sigma is the honor society recognized by the AACSB International (Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business); there has been an active chapter at SU since 1983. Membership in Beta Gamma Sigma is based entirely on merit; juniors, seniors, and MBA students are eligible if they

have the required GPA and are in the top 7-10% of their class. "Only the top schools receive AACSB accreditation, then only the top ten percent of the students in those schools are recognized," said April Bailey, Assistant Professor in the School of Business and the Beta Gamma Sigma faculty advisor. "It really shows just how hard the students work." Receiving the designation of Premier Status is not easily done, as

it requires an acceptance rate of at least 85% from students who meet the demanding academic criteria. Shippensburg University is currently the only university in the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education to have the designation of Premier Status.



*The Beta Gamma Sigma Key,
Located near Grove Hall*



SU Modern Languages Hosts 2nd Biennial Conference

In early April, Modern Language scholars gathered at Shippensburg University to discuss a wide variety of topics. Panel discussions ranged from Latin American Diversity to Lasting Contributions of Great French Couturiers, Caribbean Poetry to Modern Language Education. Several SU students and faculty members, along with visiting presenters from other universities, showcased their research and scholarship at the conference. A total of ninety-two papers were

presented, the best of which will be included in the refereed publication, *Shippensburg Journal of Modern Languages*. Dr. Alain-Patrice Nganang, SUNY-Stonybrook, provided the keynote speech, *Preemptive Writing: On Being an African American Writer in a Time Of Crisis*. "The conference was a success since it showcased the excellent research of our students," stated Dr. Agnes Ragone, Associate Professor and Chair of the Modern Languages Department. "It

was a great way to learn from our colleagues across the campus and it gave the Modern Languages an outreach into the academic community at large. We have already received emails and notes of thanks from the professors from other universities who presented with us."

***"It was a great way to learn from our colleagues across the campus and it gave us an outreach into the academic community at large."
- Dr. Agnes Ragone***



Renovation of Dauphin Humanities Center is nearly complete. Displaced departments will move "home" in early Summer 2008.

Middle States Reaccreditation Update

As anybody who has been through the accreditation process can tell you, crafting a Self Study report is not something that happens overnight. Sara Grove, co-chair of the Middle States Steering Committee, along with assistance from Tracy Schoolcraft and Rick Ruth, has spent many long hours assembling the various Work Group reports into one, cohesive document. The first draft of the document was reviewed by the Steering

Committee on March 5th. After incorporating various suggestions, a draft was distributed to the campus community. In order to receive feedback from all the constituents, Open Forums were held April 9th and 10th. Information gathered at the Open Forums will be incorporated into a second draft over the summer. Additional Open Forums are scheduled during the fall semester and the final document will be ready by

the end of the year. The Self Study is the critical document in the reaccreditation process and it is important that the entire campus community be involved in its creation. If you have not yet participated in the process, please plan to do so. Many thanks to all who have already participated— a successful Self Study could not have been done without your help.



And Now a Word from Our Sponsor....

Barbara Lyman, Provost & Senior VP for Academic Affairs



A change in the weather is sufficient to recreate the world and ourselves. – Marcel Proust

With warmer weather looking like it is here to stay for awhile, I have a moment to reflect on my first two months at Shippensburg University. Since my arrival on March 3rd, I have had the pleasure of meeting with each of the college councils as well as the chairs and faculty of 12 departments and programs. I have thoroughly enjoyed hearing about faculty

individual and department collective FBO's – FIRSTs, BESTs, and ONLYs. I very much look forward to visiting with the remaining departments in the fall semester. These visits allow me to get to know the faculty and to better understand the dedication which makes our graduates so successful and loyal to Shippensburg University. I truly appreciate everything the faculty and staff do to engage and develop the talents of our students.

After a moment to reflect, I look forward with anticipation to the opportunities and challenges that await us in the coming months. One of the most crucial events is that of the Middle States Team Visit, scheduled for next spring. Countless hours of preparation

have already gone into drafting the Self Study for the visit; and countless hours of preparation remain before the Team Chair first visits in October and the Team then arrives next April. On this and other projects, I am excited to continue working with the very capable and talented members of the Shippensburg University community.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Shippensburg University for the warm welcome I have received. I appreciate all the encouraging, candid, and kind words.

Have a safe and enjoyable summer – and I'll see you refreshed and ready to welcome new and returning students when the fall semester begins!



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About Shippensburg University

Shippensburg University is a member of the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education (PASSHE). Located on 200 acres in south-central Pennsylvania, it is home to 7700 undergraduate and graduate students. It has served as an institute of higher education in the region since 1871.

We're on the Web!

<http://www.ship.edu/admin/provost/>



Shippensburg University

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