It was raining and it was pouring but no one was snoring at the Celebration of Student Research Conference on April 19, 2011. Held at the SU Foundation Conference Center and coordinated through the Institute for Public Service and Sponsored Programs, the event showcased the research activities of around 500 Shippensburg University students. Presentations included departmental conference panels, individual student panels and oral presentations, and two different poster sessions. Dr. Diane Husic, Professor of Biology at Moravian College and immediate Past President of the Council of Undergraduate Research, delivered the keynote lecture, From Student to Scholar: Charting a Course Toward Excellence.

The venue was buzzing with activity as student researchers interacted with people interested in their work. The research represented work done in nearly all academic departments, with several interdisciplinary projects, as well. Students were eager to discuss their projects – what they discovered as well as the process itself. Anne Greenawalt happily explained how her group analyzed sports coverage in Battle of the Sexes: Gender Differences in Sports Coverage at Shippensburg University. Growing out of a class project, the group was surprised by its findings. Greenawalt felt that putting the whole thing together was a rewarding experience and that the “process of learning the research process” was particularly valuable. Chad Crumrine’s research, Fixing Missing Mountaintops and Rivers of Rust: A History of Environmental Regulation of Coal Mining, also started as a class project. Crumrine not only learned about the
regulations and the diverse responses of coal miners to such regulations, he also learned to apply research to something practical when he turned his findings into a lesson plan to be used in high schools.

The excitement students had about the research process was plainly evident. Joshua Jenkins’ project, *Gerrymander This!*, used applied mathematics to determine how to draw “fair” congressional districts in Pennsylvania. When asked what he felt was the best part of conducting his research, he enthusiastically replied, “When I hit ‘go’, it worked!” - a completely understandable reaction considering the immense amount of time that went into figuring out the calculations needed for success. Jenkins is already planning follow-up projects based on this original research. The project worked on by Relindis Awah’s group, *RNA Interference Analysis of Gene Involved in Pheromone Detection in Fruit Flies*, was a year in the making. Though there is still more work her group would like to do, she was very grateful for the opportunity to participate in the project. “It is not common for undergraduates to have the opportunity to conduct their own research in the lab,” said Awah. “Exposure to working in the lab like that, even when the results are not what you expected, gives students confidence and experience”- something from which she will surely benefit as she starts medical school in the fall. Lucas Kalathas’ project, *Performance Efficiency and Payload Studies of Scientific Rockets*, builds on research he conducted last year. He enjoyed the “real world application” of what he learned in class, and was particularly impressed with the “acceptance and support he received from SU to conduct the research.”

"Real world application” was a phrase heard time and time again from the students. For his project, *Study on Mainsville Sinkholes*, Eric Castonguay took what was learned in class and applied it to a very real situation in a nearby community. The study not only identified possible causes for the sinkholes, but made recommendations for fixing the problem. Keisha Burns demonstrated how her group’s research also addressed “real world issues.” The group tasked itself to find alternative sources of energy to power the Art Department’s kiln. *Recycled Heat: Waste Vegetable Oil Siphon-Feed Burner for Ceramics Kilns and the Bicycle-Powered Raku Kiln* showed the success they had with that task - success they plan to share with the art community as a whole.

All participants in the conference were sponsored by dedicated SU faculty. In fact, joint faculty/student research is not something new at Shippensburg University. Funded through the SU Foundation, the Joint Undergraduate Student/Research Program was formed in 1989; it funded 8 projects involving 41 students at a price of $3500 in its first year. This year, there were 354 projects involving 519 students and 88 faculty members, funded at $59,868. If this year is any indication, there will be many eager student-scholars ready to participate in next year’s conference.

*Student Researchers, from top: Eric Castonguay, Anne Greenawalt, Joshua Jenkins, Lucas Kalathas, Chad Crumrine, and Keisha Burns*
College of Business Students Excel in Competitions

The John L. Grove College of Business is always very proud of its competitive scholars. This year, though, they have much to celebrate.

Students from the Investment Management Program ranked third in large-cap growth investment at the RISE (Redefining Investment Strategy Education) XI Symposium. About fifty universities participated in the competition held in Dayton, OH. Team members from Shippensburg University were Justin Ellsesser, Rich Fino, and Brenton Wanner; they were advised by Dr. Hong Rim, Professor of Finance & Supply Chain Management.

Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE) were the first runner-up at the Regional SIFE USA Competition held in Philadelphia, PA. Competition was fierce amongst the 34 participating schools, and Shippensburg University was well represented by its team: Erica Miller, Brittany Lapp, Alexandra Capecci, Caitlin Flannery, Jennifer Spinka, Michael Kilpatrick, Jennifer Fourhman, Kaitlin Klinger, Dev Gray, Scott Henry, Matt Powell and advised by Dr. Robert Stephens, Associate Professor of Management & Marketing.

Members from the Human Resource Management Club participated in the 2011 Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM) Northeast Regional HR Case Competition. The team did very well and placed second, even beating two graduate school teams. Their placement also resulted in $2000.00 worth of scholarships for the students. The participating students were Erin Thompson, Levi Crouse, Andrew Miller, and Krista Dalby; Dr. Vicki Taylor, Associate Professor of Management & Marketing, was their advisor.

The Supply Chain Management Club sent a team to participate in the 2011 Council of Supply Chain Management Professionals (CSCMP) Pittsburgh College Challenge. Shippensburg University placed first in the college-bowl style competition, thereby ousting the six-time champion (and defending champion for the past three years), University of North Texas. Team members included Ethan Baskin, Nick Bertino, Kevin Donnelly, Zak Kern, Chris Torrens, and advisor Dr. Robert Setaputra, Associate Professor of Finance and Supply Chain Management.

Please join us in congratulating all participants in a job well done!

University to Offer Landmark Degree Program

Students attending Shippensburg University now have another degree option – and it is the first of its kind amongst the fourteen PASSHE universities. In early April, the Board of Governors approved SU’s proposal to offer a Bachelor of Science degree in computer engineering. The 120-credit program will offer a quality engineering education at the fraction of the cost of similar programs in the state. Graduates will help fill the documented need of employers looking for employees who can develop hardware and software for embedded systems.

To begin with, the program will admit about fifteen students per semester. These students will work their way through a rigorous curriculum which will include advanced courses in computer science, mathematics, and physics. They will also have the opportunity to gain practical experience through internships.

“I commend the faculty of the Computer Science Department for their cutting edge expertise and industry experience which allowed SU to develop the first engineering program in our 140 year history and enabled us to do so from existing resources,” said Dr. Barbara Lyman, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs. “Offering the first degree of its kind in PASSHE, meeting a compelling need for more computer engineers, and collaborating to attract students prepared for the challenges of this degree program—these were all reasons for the success of our proposal within SU as well as before the Council of Trustees and the Board of Governors.”

Shippensburg University is very excited to be offering this landmark degree program. Drawing on existing resources and faculty expertise, it will prepare students for successful careers in a field that is clamoring for more skilled professionals.
On March 28, forty students accompanied by two faculty from the Department of Social Work and Gerontology visited the United Nations to participate in the 28th Annual Social Work Day at the United Nations. This year’s theme was: “Promoting Human Rights through Social Work and Social Welfare.” Prior to the visit, the students met with Dr. Robin Mama, the representative of the International Federation of Social Workers at the United Nations and Chair of the International Committee of National Association of Social Workers (NASW). Dr. Mama explained to the students her role in promoting the social work profession and the agenda of the International Federation of Social Workers in this important international forum and encouraged the Shippensburg students to be involved in international social work and the promotion of human rights and social and economic justice. The guided tour of the United Nations provided the students with the opportunity to learn about human rights violations in various countries of the world and the role of the organization to support understanding amongst nations and states. The trip to New York and the visit to the United Nations were organized as a class project by a group of six students taking SWK 370: Practice with Organizations and Communities. It was made possible thanks to funding by the dean of the College of Education and Human Services and the Student Social Work Organization (SWO).

Arminio Receives National Recognition for Academic Excellence

NASPA – Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education recognized the academic excellence of Dr. Jan Arminio, chair and professor of the Counseling and College Student Personnel department. The Robert H. Shaffer Award for Academic Excellence as a Graduate Faculty Member was presented to Dr. Arminio during the 2011 NASPA Annual Conference in March. The criteria for the Shaffer Award include tenured status in a full-time graduate preparation program in student affairs, service on doctoral committees, a distinguished record of scholarly achievement and publication, contributions to professional organizations, and personal inspiration to graduate students.

Dr. Arminio’s nomination for the award was bolstered by letters of recommendation from former Shippensburg University students. According to Matthew Kerch, now employed at Lehigh University, Dr. Arminio “finds new and innovative ways to relate her coursework to our everyday lives, in preparation for what lies ahead in our chosen career paths. Jan has stressed the importance of staying current with best practices and encourages her advisees to become involved with professional organizations. It is hard to find someone who truly cares more about her students than Dr. Jan Arminio.” Tara Frank, a doctoral candidate at Virginia Tech, echoed many of Kerch’s sentiments and added, “I clearly remember saying to my parents that I wanted to be like Jan and become a professor in a higher education program one day.”

“Dr. Jan Arminio’s national honor of receiving the Robert H. Shaffer Award for Academic Excellence as a Graduate Faculty Member is important not only for the well-earned recognition that it bestows on Jan,” commented Dr. Barbara Lyman, Provost & Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs. “This award also sends a message to the communities we serve that Shippensburg University has on board exceptional faculty of the highest caliber.”

Please join us in congratulating Dr. Jan Arminio on her accomplishment!
New Appointments in Academic Affairs

This spring, the Academic Affairs Division welcomed several new members. The positions were all the result of either retirements or restructuring within the division, thus enabling a more effective use of allocated resources.

Dr. Christina Sax, formerly the Dean of Extended Studies, now serves as the Associate Provost and Dean of Academic Outreach and Innovation. In this new role, she will continue to head the Office Extended Studies, now called the Office of Professional, Continuing, and Distance Education Studies. Additionally, overseeing the Institute for Public Service and Office of Sponsored Programs, the Center for Faculty Excellence in Scholarship and Teaching Grants Administration and Campus Support, the University Research and Scholarship Program, and Academic Innovation initiatives are all included in her duties. This realignment will maximize effective use of existing resources while looking to expand sources of external funding. Dr. Sax received her bachelor's degree from the University of Rochester and her doctorate degree from the Medical College of Virginia. She has held numerous leadership positions in professional organizations and activities and has won several national and regional awards in those capacities as well as for her own teaching and scholarship.

The College of Education and Human Services had two new appointments. Dr. Nellie Cyr is the new associate dean. Prior to coming to Shippensburg, she was an associate professor of kinesiology and physical education at the University of Maine at Orono. A product of PASSHE schools, she received her bachelor's degree from Edinboro University and her master's degree from Slippery Rock University before earning her doctoral degree from the University of Pittsburgh. Dr. Herbert Steffy is now the director of field experiences and partnerships. He comes to Shippensburg from Lebanon Valley College where he was an associate professor of education. He received his bachelor's degree from Eastern Mennonite University, and master's degrees from James Madison University and the University of Central Florida; his doctorate degree is also from the University of Central Florida. Both Dr. Cyr and Dr. Steffy are active scholars and are very involved in professional organizations.

Mr. Christopher Wonders joins Shippensburg as the new Director of the Institute for Public Service and Sponsored Programs. Prior to this position, he was a senior grant writer and researcher at the Harrisburg University of Science & Technology in Harrisburg, PA. Mr. Wonders received his bachelor's degree and master's degree from the University of Pittsburgh. He brings with him extensive experience in sponsored program administration.

Mr. Justin English is the new Director of Business Internships and MBA Recruitment. Previous to this position he was the recruiting coordinator and assistant women's basketball coach at Clarion University in Clarion, PA. Mr. English earned his bachelor's degree from York College of Pennsylvania and his master's degree from Clarion University. He has years of experience recruiting for both business and higher education purposes.

Please join us in wishing all of them success in their new endeavors!

Old Main has been the “cornerstone” of Shippensburg University for 140 years
And Now A Word From Our Sponsor....
Barbara G. Lyman, Provost & Senior VP for Academic Affairs

“A pessimist sees the difficulty in every opportunity; an optimist sees the opportunity in every difficulty.”
- Sir Winston Churchill

As we encounter circumstances that would appear to represent the “new normal,” we inevitably wonder if approaches that seemed to work with the “old normal” still serve us well. That is as it should be. As those privileged to serve in higher education, we are well situated to make such questions the objects of critical questioning and of empirical investigation. As we develop questions demanding further exploration and pursue them through the scholarship of discovery, integration, application, and/or teaching, to echo Boyer (1997), we will inevitably find some of our attention directed to three increasingly obvious realities: the gradual defunding of public higher education, the changing demographics of students we serve, and the pervasiveness of digital media in students’ lives. We should continuously investigate the implications of such changes for how we design and deliver our courses, programs, and services while vigilantly preserving distinctiveness and quality at Shippensburg University.

However, as we challenge ourselves to better understand new realities and optimal responses in ways that communities of scholars can do better than anyone else, it is also fitting to take stock of recent achievements. Even though our collective ethos is one that, I believe, does not allow us to become self-satisfied and complacent, it is worthwhile to stop long enough to consider at least some of our FBOs – FIRSTs, BESTs, and ONLYs, simply out of gratitude that we serve at a place where impressive things happen through our individual and collective intentions and efforts. I would like to mention several of our FBOs!

- Within the Shippensburg University signature program of undergraduate research, growth has been tremendous, thanks most of all to the faculty. Our 2009 Celebration of Student Research Day featured approximately 50 faculty sponsors and 120 students, in 2010 over 80 faculty sponsors and 400 students (399 to be exact), and in 2011 nearly 90 faculty sponsors and approximately 500 student researchers. Keynote speaker for this year’s April event, Dr. Diane Husic, immediate past president of the national Council of Undergraduate Research, reported that she had never seen a more impressive conference of its kind.

Volvo Construction Equipment Expansion in Shippensburg

Volvo Construction Equipment is planning to spend $100 million to expand its facilities and operations in Shippensburg. Over the next few years, their North American Sales Headquarters and Volvo Rents will relocate here from North Carolina. Their Shippensburg manufacturing facility will also start producing more specialized equipment, including wheel loaders, excavators, and articulated haulers.

What does this have to do with Shippensburg University? Well, for one thing, it is exciting news for the entire Shippensburg community, of which the University is a part. Also, one of our major strategic initiatives, as directed by the Chancellor and endorsed by the Board of Governors, is to work in partnership with our community and state to “help create and sustain a strong economy.” With that goal in mind, a committee led by Dr. Christina Sax, Associate Provost & Dean of Academic Outreach and Innovation, will be looking at ways Shippensburg University and Volvo can form a mutually beneficial partnership. It may mean increased internship opportunities for students. It may mean Volvo employees participating in the Technical Leadership and Administration Professional Studies B.S. program. Though it is still early in the process, we are excited to watch as it progresses.
And Now A Word From Our Sponsor....

- ACEJMC (Accrediting Council on Education in Journalism and Mass Communication) (provisional accreditation as is granted to newly admitted programs)
- CACREP (Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs) (reaffirmation pending from CACREP which grants accredited status to graduate-level programs in the professional counseling field, following a very positive site visit)
- Certified Financial Planner Board of Standards (renewal of recognition first earned in 2005 with Ship’s program being the only CFP board certified program in central Pennsylvania)
- Society for Human Resource Management (national recognition for alignment with human resources curriculum guidelines)
  - As a university thanks to all of our efforts, we have a few other FBOs that should not go unnoticed.
  - Three PASSHE based FBOs include having the fewest low enrolled programs (tied with one other of the 14), the highest 4 year graduation rate for 7 consecutive years, and with the recent approval of computer engineering, the first new degree program of its kind in SU and PASSHE history.
  - Attracting a record number of valedictorians and salutatorians through our specialized Board of Governors scholarship program targeting the highest achieving students.
  - G.I. Jobs Magazine naming Shippensburg University a “Military Friendly School”, placing Ship in the top 15% of universities, colleges, and trade schools nationwide and featuring it in the publication, “Guide to Military Friendly Schools.”
  - U.S. News and World Report ranking Shippensburg among the best schools in the North region. Ship tied for 77th overall and was ranked 21st among public institutions.
- As well as providing a high quality educational experience for our students, Shippensburg has been recognized as a great place to work. As a result of a survey conducted by The Chronicle of Higher Education, Ship was named a “Great College to Work For” – one of only 97 institutions nationwide to receive that designation in 2010-2011. SU also received special honors in the categories of supervisor or department chair relationship and compensation/benefits.
While realizing that the budget situation challenges us mightily as it has for a number of years now, it is invigorating to see these results of our collective dedication and diligence. My thanks to everyone for all you have contributed to these achievements and recognitions.

A New Face in the Provost’s Office

The Provost’s Office happily welcomes Brian Johnson as the new Executive Assistant to the Provost & VP for Academic Affairs. Brian brings with him a wealth of experience in higher education, most recently in roles of increasing responsibility at the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville. Brian’s contributions to the quality collegiate experience of students earned him recognition from the National Association for Campus Activities and the National Association for Student Personnel Administrators.

“Working in the Provost’s Office has been both exciting and challenging for me,” said Johnson. “I have enjoyed meeting everyone here at the university, and have felt welcomed from day one. The staff in the Provost’s Office are completely dedicated to their work and supporting faculty, staff, and students, and I am very happy to be a part of the team.”

Welcome aboard, Brian!

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Ms. Jill Turner, Administrative Assistant
Ms. Brenda Minges, Secretary
Ms. Tammy Pearson, Secretary
Ms. Heather Wadas, Secretary

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 over 8,325 undergraduate and graduate students. It has served as an institute of higher education in the region since 1873.

We’re on the Web!
http://www.ship.edu/admin/provost/

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