TRUDY SMITH—A LIFE REMEMBERED

The Technology and Library Services division was deeply saddened by the loss of our own, Trudy Smith, who passed away on September 18, 2015.

Trudy began her career at Ship in 2003 as a Work Management System Administrator in the Physical Plant. In 2010, she moved to the Systems and Applications unit in the Information Technology division and then accepted the position of Business Intelligence Administrator in 2013.

Trudy was instrumental in the conversion to the university’s new Campus Information System, Banner, and helped to build a reliable data reporting environment, one which put more control and access to data in the hands of university functional areas and academic departments. In 2011, Trudy received the Technology and Library Services division’s award for Exemplary Service for her outstanding work and tireless efforts during the Banner implementation.

Outside of work, Trudy enjoyed spending time with her family—her husband, Ted, and her sons, Benjamin and Matthew. Trudy also loved to shop and was a fan of University of Pittsburgh football, the Pittsburgh Penguins and Donny Osmond! In fact, Trudy had a surprise opportunity to meet Donny during a backstage meet and greet when he performed at the Luhrs Center in 2011!

We will always remember Trudy for her positive attitude, caring heart, and ever-present smile!
The first public stage of the new web design will be launched by the end of October 2015.

University Web Site Redesign

Shippensburg University began working with Barkley REI, a digital marketing agency in the Pittsburgh area, in November 2014 to better align the public website with our current focus on prospective students and enrollment management goals. Prospective students and their families were surveyed as part of the process to gather their feedback on information architecture, navigation, usability, creative concept, and design.

After a busy year of working through the process of redesigning the ship.edu website, the first public stage of the new web design will be launched by the end of October 2015. New web templates have been developed to reflect Ship’s visual identity, present information on a more structured homepage, and provide a more dynamic experience throughout the site. The new design will be responsive to screen sizes on all types of devices to better meet our increased mobile traffic, and information will be added to make search engine optimization more effective.

Innovative Use of Technology Winner

Each year, the Emerging Technologies Subcommittee submits nominations to recognize processes or individual faculty efforts at Ship that use new technologies or have identified new uses for existing technologies. Dr. Timothy Hawkins of the Geography/Earth Science department was selected as this year’s winner!

Dr. Sean Cornell’s nomination letter recognized Dr. Hawkins’s integration of technology in both graduate and undergraduate classrooms. One example included the use of infrared thermal image cameras. “...Dr. Hawkins teaches students how to use professional-quality infrared thermal imaging cameras and a Retrotec exhaust fan system to complete an audit” (Cornell, personal communication, February 17, 2015)
INTRODUCING EMS

Shippensburg University implemented the EMS Campus event management and calendaring system at the beginning of the Fall 2015 semester. This solution, which replaces the Ad Astra scheduling system, integrates with Banner to display academic schedules and provides self-service event and room reservation by campus users. EMS provides a more intuitive interface for both requestors and approvers, and all campus users have an “account” within the application that allows them to review previous event requests or modify pending requests themselves.

2015 EXEMPLARY SERVICE WINNERS

Each year, the Technology and Library Services (TLS) division selects two individuals who have provided exemplary service to the division. At the annual TLS Division Luncheon, award recipients are announced and presented with the award. This year’s winners were Dr. Kirk Moll, Department Chair of the Ezra Lehman Memorial Library and Mr. Michael Bonafair, Director of Telecommunications.

NETWORK AND WI-FI UPDATE

This semester, it came to our attention that there were some issues with the network and Wi-Fi service in some of the residence halls. The university takes technology issues very seriously. After surveying wireless coverage in the problem areas, a pilot program was launched in Seavers Hall on the first floor. Students were again surveyed after an upgrade was made to improve wireless coverage, and the results were very positive. Our maps showed better distributed coverages and the responses from the student surveys were positive, indicating not only signal strength gains but also speed gains. We plan on continuing our augmentation of wireless in the residence halls and hope to wrap this up by the beginning of the spring semester.

Students are reminded they can help ease network traffic by plugging in devices or to turn off wireless on devices that they do not use wirelessly and to not use rogue wireless access points.
NEW FACES IN SYSTEMS AND APPLICATIONS

Applications and Systems welcomes three new staff members: Derek Cohenour, Patrick Flanagan, and Todd Ditzler.

Derek Cohenour began his duties as Application Administrator on June 29, 2015. Derek holds a B.S.B.A. in Management Information Systems from Shippensburg University and he was previously employed with the PA Liquor Control Board as a Business Analyst III. In his new role, Derek will support and implement functionality in our campus information system and ancillary software.

Patrick Flanagan began his duties as an Applications Administrator on July 6, 2015. Patrick is slated to complete his B.S. in Software Engineering from Shippensburg University this fall. In his new role, Patrick will support and enhance library catalog, digital collection, archive management, and patron authentication software for the Keystone Library Network (KLN).

Todd Ditzler began his duties as Application Software and Database Administrator on October 5, 2015. Todd holds a B.S.B.A. in Management Information Systems from Shippensburg University and was previously employed with Verizon as a Systems Engineer. In this new role, Todd will maintain and upgrade campus information system software and databases.

MEET THE NEW INSTRUCTIONAL DESIGNER

Scott Gallagher began his duties as Instructional Design Specialist on Monday, May 4, 2015. Scott holds a B.A. in History from Shippensburg University and an M.A. in Adult Education and Communication Technology from IUP. He previous worked as a Technology Facilitator at West Perry School District and a Technology Coordinator at Centeral Pa Digital Learning Foundation.
LIBQUAL SURVEY

In an effort to improve its services to Shippensburg University and to the broader Shippensburg and regional community, every few years the Ezra Lehman Memorial Library participates in an extensive national user satisfaction survey called LibQUAL+.

The Lehman Library will be administering the survey during November 1-20, 2015. All members of the SU community, students, faculty and staff will be asked to complete the survey.

As an added incentive, everyone completing the survey will have the option to be included in random drawing for prizes!

The library is proud to welcome Christy Fic as its newest tenure-track archives and special collections librarian. Christy has been with the library in a temporary capacity since January 2013 as a professional reference and instruction librarian, and later as an archives and special collections librarian. She has her Master’s in Library and Information Science, specializing in archives, preservation and records management, from the University of Pittsburgh; and her Master of Arts from Shippensburg University in Applied History.

Annie Jansen recently joined the library faculty as a Reference and Instruction Librarian. She completed her Master’s in Library Science from Kent State University over the summer, and also has an MA in English Literature from DePaul University in Chicago.

The new study area will be a combination of different seating arrangements to meet the varying needs expressed to us by our students.

“..." 

DEAN’S CORNER: EZRA LEHMAN LIBRARY RENOVATIONS

I am pleased to announce that we are working on finalizing the renovation of the lower left floor of the Ezra Lehman Memorial Library! Many hours of hard work have gone into the sorting, consolidation, and rearranging of the material formerly in that area to allow for expanded student study space. Coming soon is the removal of the empty shelving and the old carpet. This will make way for the new carpet, a fresh coat of paint, and furniture designed specifically to provide the space our students need for an effective study area.

This new study area will be a combination of different seating arrangements to meet the varying needs expressed to us by our students. There will be cubicles with seating from 4 to 6 that will include white board space, as well as traditional tables with power with varying numbers of seats. We are excited about providing these much requested spaces to our students!

We anticipate having the major renovation work completed over the winter break, with the space being available for use in the Spring 2016 semester!

Dennis H. Mathes, Dean of the Library
A MESSAGE FROM OUR VICE PRESIDENT

A new university president; a new academic year, and a new fiscal year. Well, two out of three aren’t bad! Even though a state budget is nowhere in sight, the cloud of a perennial $3 million structural deficit (and the probability of furloughs and retrenchment) no longer hangs over our heads and blocks the rays of the breaking dawn. The worst of a stormy night is over. The new day brings new hope and possibilities.

Sure, challenges remain, but that’s life. And life without challenges would frankly be pretty boring. We’ve worked together to get this far and if we continue to work together, there are no challenges that we can’t overcome. Over the past few years, we may have begun to feel a little discouraged, or sorry for ourselves. We may have lost confidence and stopped believing in ourselves. Worse yet, we may have stopped believing in each other. It should never be us against each other; it should always be us against the world!

Even though we’re all doing a little more, wearing multiple hats, and stretching ourselves to new heights, the load doesn’t feel quite so heavy, the pace quite so hectic, and out of the pain we’re starting to feel some gain. We have not only come through a tough time, but we have come through it even stronger than we were before. It’s an exciting time, time to get back to focusing on students, fostering new learning experiences, and developing innovative ideas.