

2012 Football Program Welcome

Welcome to Shippensburg University and the SU Student Association Field at Seth Grove Stadium. We're happy you can be here for today's game and we all look forward to outstanding performances by two great teams in a competition that epitomizes the best of Division II athletics.

Shippensburg's athletic traditions are rich and successful as are its academic programs and service to the region. Our student athletes balance their athletic pursuits with their classroom success and service to others through numerous volunteer programs. Last year, for example, our student-athletes, other students, and members of the campus community volunteered more than 20,000 hours in community service to others.

In the classroom, our students continue to excel in such areas as undergraduate/faculty research. Last year, more than 500 undergraduate and graduate students shared their diverse and innovative research activities at the annual Celebration of Student Research Conference. We stress the importance of research as a vital component of education because we know it is crucial to the life-long process of learning.

As education changes and evolves, we continue to review our academic programming. As a result of that regular evaluation, we are offering new Bachelor of Science degrees in software engineering and in computer engineering. Both degrees are the first of their kind within the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education. New programs at the graduate level this year will also provide much-needed educational opportunities throughout the region.

Other signs of progress are visible elsewhere on campus. A major renovation of the Anthony F. Ceddia Union Building was completed this fall and will enhance its role as the hub of student activities on campus. It will also house a UPS store that will serve both the on-campus and the off-campus community. Phase One of our three-phase project to construct all new residence halls will open at the start of the Spring Semester. These buildings feature a living-learning concept in which students will live and be able to work collaboratively with others on various academic projects.

Our intercollegiate athletic teams also continue their success on and off the athletic venues. Our teams recently captured second in the standings for the 2012 Dixon Trophy. During the 17-year history of this award that honors the Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference's most successful athletic program, Shippensburg has finished first or second 13 times. But more importantly, numerous members of our teams continue to earn academic All-America honors for their stellar classroom achievements.

Students are the heart of Shippensburg University. We're very proud of them and we do all we can to help them meet their individual goals. Please visit our university website at www.ship.edu and our athletics website at www.shipraiders.com to learn more about our exceptional students and the many other members of the Ship family.

While you're here today, I also invite you to take part the many activities on campus or just walk around and see some of the unique traits that make Shippensburg an outstanding university nationally recognized for its academic excellence.