

**SUF Annual Fund Leadership Benefactors' Celebration Dinner**  
**Saturday, November 3, 2012**  
**West Shore Country Club**

Good evening everyone. It's my great pleasure to join you tonight for the annual Leadership Benefactors Celebration Dinner. I always enjoy these annual gatherings. It is an opportunity to celebrate our mutual commitment to Ship and for me to thank you personally for everything you do for the University. It is also a time to celebrate the accomplishments and leadership of the Annual Fund which enables the SU Foundation to fund important initiatives that impact the learning and teaching that happen every day on campus.

I would like to thank Ron and Kate Conard, the National Annual Fund Co-Chairs, Fred and Ann Potthoff, Co-Chairs of the Hilltop Heritage Society, and Bob Gimmi, Chair of the Board of Fellow Gift Club. I would also like to thank the Chairs and volunteers of the Campus Campaign and the Thankathon program. You do outstanding work and it doesn't go unnoticed.

Finally, I would like to thank Michael Schaul, chair of the Council of Trustees, and all the other trustees, John Clinton, president of the SU Foundation, Joel Zullinger, chairperson of the SU Foundation Board of Directors, and all the other members on the SU Foundation Board. I am deeply grateful for your leadership, vision, time and resources, and your investment in Shippensburg University. It is my privilege to work with you throughout the year as we continue to discern the future of this great institution.

Twenty-one days ago, I stood before another distinguished crowd, including some of you, and was honored to be part of an historic occasion. That night the SU Foundation announced the public phase of Charting the Course, Lighting the Way — The Campaign for Shippensburg University.

This campaign is historic on many fronts. At \$45 million, it is the largest campaign ever undertaken by the SU Foundation and it is the largest private fundraising campaign in the history of the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education. It was also very exciting to learn that nearly \$27 million was already raised prior to the announcement.

The campaign initiatives include raising money for scholarships and professorships to attract outstanding students and talented faculty.

We hope to expand our current "centers of excellence." These centers provide opportunities for students to acquire and share knowledge in a collaborative interdisciplinary setting, such as the Wood Honors Program and the Joint Undergraduate Student Faculty Research program. The campaign will also allow us to create new ones such as a Center for Entrepreneurial Leadership and a Community Service Center.

Our intent is to preserve the past while looking to the future by hopefully restoring the fourth floor of Old Main, renovating Stewart Hall to become a center for the Alumni Association and upgrading some of the athletic facilities. Just recently I was asked by the Chancellor's Office of the State System to provide what's called our accountability report. It is a compilation of our successes as they relate to the most effective and efficient use of the resources entrusted to us by the citizens of the Commonwealth. It gives me great pleasure to share a few of these exciting things with you tonight.

Coincidentally, many of these successes dovetail with the three areas for which the campaign is raising funds — people, programs and places.

In the area of people:

Faculty members continue to attend conferences, both here and abroad, presenting their research to their peers, all with the intention of enhancing their curricula and teaching in the classroom. For example:

- Dr. George Pomeroy, professor of geography/earth science and secretary of the Asian Urban Research Association, participated in the 11th Asian Urbanization Conference in Hyderabad, India, where planning professionals and researchers came together to learn and to see planning projects in action.

Our students, who are always great ambassadors for Shippensburg University, also attended conferences and academic competitions.

- Students in the Investment Management Program took first place in the growth investment area at the national Redefining Investment Strategy Education competition. As many of you know, the Investment Management Program is a highly selective class where seniors from the John L. Grove College of Business are the sole portfolio managers, with oversight by finance professors, of a real-dollar endowment fund.
- The Software Engineering team earned an award at the national Desire2Learn Edge Challenge for its program, Tune In, which allows students to tell their professors, in real time, if they understand the material being presented. The interface resembles a car radio tuner and allows students to indicate if they understand the material by turning the volume up or down.

In the area of programs:

- We have two new academic programs to meet the ever-changing needs of the region. Our new degree in software engineering will prepare students for careers developing large-scale software systems while working in highly effective development teams. This program fills the need for trained software developers in the Commonwealth and surrounding region. Ship also has a new Master of Arts in Teaching–Science Education degree to meet the growing need for highly qualified high school and middle school science teachers.
- The joint undergraduate student-faculty research program continues to expand. A highlight at the annual conference this year was a keynote talk by Dr. William E. Klunk, professor of psychiatry and neurology at the University of Pittsburgh. Bill is a 1978 alumnus and one of the world's leading experts in the early detection of Alzheimer's disease. He is a great example of one of our goals: to provide students with the research skills they need to succeed in any field. Since we are not a research university, we will not find a cure for a disease here, but I'm sure one of our graduates someday will, thanks to their Ship experience.

In the area of places:

- If you haven't been in the re-opened Ceddia Union Building recently you will be amazed at its transformation. The building houses new office and meeting areas for student services and groups, as well as places to eat, lounge, relax, and play. Outdoor spaces now include patio areas and an amphitheater.
- Shippensburg made history when ground was broken on the university's largest single project — the construction of new student residence halls. The first phase of the three-phase project includes three four-story buildings. The buildings will open for the Spring 2013 semester with 924 beds and feature suite-style living as part of our living-learning concept for students. All three phases are to be complete in 2015 with the cost to be underwritten by student housing fees.

These are but a very few of our successes, made possible with your help. President Harry Truman said: "In periods where there is no leadership, society stands still. Progress occurs when courageous skillful leaders seize the opportunity to change things for the better."

With Charting the Course, Lighting the Way – the Campaign for Shippensburg University, we stand at the threshold of great change. It is a very exciting time for the University, and you are the courageous people who will help provide the leadership and resources to effect that change.

Before I end, I would like to ask a favor. Please go to the SU Foundation's website at [www.SUFoundation.org](http://www.SUFoundation.org) and click on the link for the campaign. On that page is a wonderful video that highlights the campaign initiatives through interviews with members of the campus family — especially our students. Please watch that video. I know you will be impressed and realize the importance of the campaign and the lives it will touch.

Thank you again for being here tonight and thank you for supporting the flagship of the State System.