



November 16, 2011

Dear Ship Family:

As the semester winds down, this is a time to reflect and a time to dream of the future. Thanksgiving allows us to each be thankful for what has been so special to us. Shortly, the entire Holiday Season — Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, Muharram, and other celebrations — will be upon us and we will share the joy of family and the season. And after that, we all will look to the future as we make our resolutions for the year 2012!

In light of the time, I want to share some of the things for which I am thankful and wishes for the university for the future. **I am thankful for:**

- The members of the campus community who, in their own ways, make Ship such an outstanding institution. From the students who bring curiosity and enthusiasm to campus, to faculty who instill in the students their love of learning, to the staff who ensure support our efforts to provide an education of excellence, to our alumni who continue their successes in the world.
- Opportunities to serve the region through our many academic and outreach programs. Our new Bachelor of Science degree program in computer engineering will fill the need in the Commonwealth for a cost-effective option for students to seek a computer engineering degree. We also continue to play an important role in the region through such programs as our Center for Land Use, Small Business Development Center and, of course, as a cultural center thanks to our H. Ric Luhrs Performing Arts Center.
- The start of the housing project by the Shippensburg University Student Services, Inc. Just this week, we had the official groundbreaking on this major project that will not only enhance our residence halls, but have a dramatic impact on the living-learning atmosphere on campus.
- Soon-to-be completed work on expansion and renovation of the Anthony F. Ceddia Union Building. Early next year, the project will end and we'll be able to fully re-occupy a building that will once again be at the heart of students' lives outside the classroom.
- Outstanding students who excel inside and outside the classroom. Many of our student academic organizations have competed nationally — and won. The Celebration of Student Research expanded last year, and I expect next year's program to be even larger. In addition, our student-athletes earn awards for their athleticism, their academics and their service projects.



- Outstanding faculty members whose expertise in the classroom is exceeded only by their dedication to their students. They have also received numerous major federal and national grants last year. For example, the National Science Foundation has awarded the University, in cooperation with three other organizations, a grant to promote the recruitment, retention and advancement of women academics in the science, technology, engineering and mathematics disciplines. The program is under the direction of the leadership team of Dr. Kate G. McGivney, professor of mathematics; as well as her Shippensburg colleagues Dr. Alice Armstrong, assistant professor of computer science; and Dr. Robin McCann, associate professor of chemistry.
- Of course, the support we receive from our many alumni and friends who understand and appreciate all that Ship does and provides. Thanks to you and so many others, we continue to enhance our programming and our facilities as the university looks to a bright future.

**I have one main wish for 2012 and beyond:**

- The adequate financial support we need from the Commonwealth!!! As one of the 14 state-owned PASSHE universities, we are the people's universities with a mission to offer an affordable education of opportunity for the citizens of Pennsylvania. Further budget cuts, in light of dramatic cuts in the last eight years, will have a serious and detrimental impact on not just what we do, but who we are.

Nobel Peace Prize recipient Albert Schweitzer said: "In everyone's life, at some time, our inner fire goes out. It is then burst into flame by an encounter with another human being. We should all be thankful for those people who rekindle the inner spirit."

Thanks to you, the entire Ship family, the inner spirit of this great university burns brightly. As we end this calendar year, I look forward to continuing our great success of Shippensburg University providing quality education, at an affordable price, with national and global quality!!!!

Thanks,

William N. Ruud, Ph.D.  
President