

## Honors Program

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### SU Honors Students Participate in Model OAS Conference

Five Honors Program students from Shippensburg University joined students from 29 other universities at the 2011 Washington Model Organization of American States (OAS) in Washington, D.C. from March 29 – April 2, 2011. The five-day event simulated the proceedings of the OAS General Assembly, providing students with real-world experience learning about the functions of the OAS and mastering the art of diplomacy.

The SU Honors students--Addalena Virtus, a junior psychology major from Shippensburg; Tracy Migliori, a junior history education major from Schnecksville; Ethan Goldbach, a sophomore elementary education major from Greencastle; Rachel O'Neill, a sophomore communications/journalism major from Glenside; and Paul Engelkemier, a sophomore political science major from Laurel, MD--are members of the university's Model OAS seminar, which is taught each spring semester by Dr. Mark Sachleben, assistant professor of political science. To prepare for their participation in the Washington Model OAS, the students spent the semester researching Guatemala, the country that they represented at the conference; the OAS; and important issues confronting nations in the Western Hemisphere.

"The Washington Model OAS is an excellent opportunity for students, not only to learn about regional issues and problems facing the Western Hemisphere, but also to meet and interact with students from across the United States and throughout Central and South America," said Dr. Sachleben.

At the conference, the SU students won the award for best written resolution for the General Committee. Ethan Goldbach was also elected as vice chair of the committee that deals with human rights issues for the 2012 Washington Model OAS. "My experience at the 2011 Washington Model OAS taught me about the importance of diplomacy and allowed me to meet and network with students and faculty from across the hemisphere," said Goldbach. "It was a great opportunity to learn more about how governmental and non-governmental organizations help shape the hemisphere."

For more information about the Washington Model Organization of American States, please visit <http://wmoas.shss.cofc.edu/>.

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*The Honors Program at Shippensburg University provides an outstanding undergraduate experience that emphasizes scholarship, leadership, and service. The program involves 175 students who are selected based on academic achievement and evidence of leadership and civic engagement. For more information, please visit <http://www.ship.edu/honors>.*