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Shippensburg University Students Speak at National Honors Conference

Four students from the Shippensburg University Honors Program gave presentations and moderated a panel session at the 44th annual conference of the National Collegiate Honors Council Oct. 28 to Nov. 1 in Washington, D.C.

Seniors Grace Burkholder and Annamarie McCormick joined Dr. Kim Klein, director of the Honors Program, and Dr. Alison Dagnes, Honors faculty member, to present “Promoting Civic Engagement across Campus: The Honors Election Debate Series.”

The Election Debate Series is a biennial event at Ship where students from the Honors Elections Seminar debate political candidates’ positions on important public policy issues. The series is open to the campus and community and raises awareness of state and national races.

“The conference provided an opportunity to network with other students from honors colleges and programs across the nation,” said Burkholder, an accounting major from Harrisburg. “It showed me how much our students are involved in Ship’s Honors Program.”

“I’m glad to have had the opportunity to present at such a prestigious event,” added McCormick, an elementary education major from Sinking Spring. “Through networking at the conference, I now have a greater understanding of the scope and dedication that goes into creating and maintaining an Honors Program of our caliber.”

Senior Shaun Thompson and Honors faculty member Dr. Mike Long presented “The Game: An Interdisciplinary Approach to Math, History, and Service-Learning.” Thompson and Long discussed a recent Honors interdisciplinary seminar that traced the evolution of mathematics and culminated with students creating math tricks and games to share with middle school students in Appalachia. The games were designed to enhance the middle schoolers’ interest in and understanding of math.

“The NCHC conference was a great experience and a privilege,” said Thompson, a mathematics major from Woodbridge, Va. “Being able to share about our seminar and interact with other honors students and faculty was an amazing opportunity.”

Sophomore Elisabeth Davis served as a moderator for the general session “Honors Interdisciplinary Capstones: Working toward Solutions to Complex Global Problems” presented by faculty from the University of Cincinnati. She also moderated “Defining Capstone
Experiences for Honors Students in Professional Degree Programs,” a presentation by faculty from Kennesaw State University.

“As a student moderator, I was able to assume a role which is usually reserved for professors and professionals not only at conferences but also within the classroom,” said Davis, a history major from Roxbury. “This provided me with greater insight not only into the role and power of the professor/moderator, but also the responsibilities associated with it.”

The conference was held at the Grand Hyatt Washington in Penn Quarter and featured the theme “Honors in the Global City.” Nearly 2,000 students, professors, and higher education administrators attended the five-day gathering to share ideas about honors education.

The Honors Program at Shippensburg University provides an outstanding undergraduate experience that emphasizes scholarship, leadership, and service. The program is made up of 150 students who are chosen based on academic achievement, intellectual curiosity, and evidence of leadership and civic engagement. Students benefit from small classes, outstanding instruction, exciting research, study abroad, and internship opportunities, and special social and cultural activities. For more information, visit http://www.ship.edu/honors.