

# A Climate Collaboration

## Faculty and Students Join State Leaders to Impact the Climate Conversation

Shippensburg University's Communication, Journalism, and Media Department announced a new partnership with seven organizations throughout central Pennsylvania in an attempt to help educate residents about the effects of climate change.

The collaboration, Climate Solutions, works to find climate change solutions through the channels of journalism, education, and engagement. The project's lead collaborator is StateImpact, an organization based with WITF. StateImpact specializes in covering energy and environmental impact topics. Funding for the collaboration is provided by the Social Journalism Network (SJN), an organization that helps journalists focus on problems and solutions within a community, and a community's responses to those solutions. SJN is providing a \$200,000 grant over the next two years to support the collaboration.

Collaborators include Franklin & Marshall College for Public Opinion Research, La Voz Latina, QHubo, Sankofa African American Theatre Company, Shippensburg University Communication, Journalism, and Media



Department, StateImpact Pennsylvania, USA TODAY Network in central Pennsylvania and WITF.

Dr. Carrie Sipes, chair of the Communication, Journalism, and Media Department at Shippensburg University, along with Dr. Dhiman Chattopadhyay, an assistant professor, were two of the individuals at the forefront of planning this project.

"Chattopadhyay and I were working with WITF on a different project. Scott Blanchard, senior editor, reached out about Climate Solutions and talked about a partnership with Solutions Journalism Network. Every other week during the summer, we would meet on Zoom to discuss what our objectives were and how we would make decisions," said Sipes.

The role of the Communication, Journalism, and Media Department will vary. Faculty are planning to incorporate the partnership into the classroom, as well. Students will get the opportunity to work with prominent news organizations and tackle important topics that affect their communities.

Sipes believes that this will lead to incredible learning experiences in and outside of the classroom. The project will allow students to work alongside journalists and watch as they tackle serious topics. While this is a collaboration with a focus in journalism and research, there are opportunities for all students within the department to get involved.

"There are incredible research opportunities, and of course there is the journalism aspect but our public relations students will also be able to gain hands-on experience, as well. We are planning events that will hopefully foster conversation to understand what people know about climate change and their experience with it," said Sipes.

The department's involvement with the collaboration is set to begin next semester. Sipes says the next step is talking to the student media organizations. "First, we need to meet with the student media groups and see how they want to get involved in the spring."

Both Chattopadhyay and Sipes look forward to what this project will lead to for the students. This will offer students unique ways to engage with audiences and tell stories about what is happening on campus and in their local communities.

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SHIPPENSBURG  
UNIVERSITY

150<sup>th</sup>

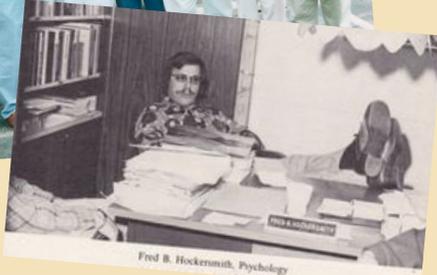
REMEMBER • CELEBRATE • THRIVE

Founded 1871

Shippensburg University kicked off its 150th celebration with the launch of a new 150th website and interactive photo timeline. Check out the timeline at

**150.ship.edu**

**Have a memory you would like to share?** In addition to the timeline, the website features a listing of 150 events and a place to share your Ship memories. Submit your memories and photos and they'll be featured on the 150th page over the next year.



# Message from the DEAN

## Dancing in the Rain

Fall 2021 brought a return to full face-to-face activities at Shippensburg University and it has been a boost to faculty, staff and students to get back to a sense of normalcy. The sea of masked faces at convocation and

the sound of students on the quad triggered an excitement that we lacked in previous semesters. While we missed out on those students who needed or wanted an online option, those who were on campus participated in full force. Our student-athletes had successful sports seasons, students returned to field work, research, performances, internships and to community outreach. The scholarly activities of our faculty have been another source of pride. Besides those featured in this newsletter, faculty have continued to publish books and research articles, to be featured in local and regional media outlets, to secure competitive grants from organizations such as the National Science Foundation and to partner with regional organizations to educate about climate change challenges. A highlight of the semester was the December 11 face-to-face winter commencement ceremony for 371 undergraduate and graduate students featuring some of the first graduates from our newer programs such as the master's in applied psychology and bachelor's in Civil Engineering.

Though we were triumphant in our return to a "new normal," it was not without challenges. Fall 2021 became a semester that was, again, disrupted by COVID-19 and required flexibility and adaptability. Once again faculty and staff rose to the challenge of providing our students with the best possible experience given the conditions. This was a semester in which we, like a majority of higher education institutions, continued to see declines in enrollment, some of it COVID related. Far from being discouraged, we are working with new leadership at the presidential level, and in admissions and enrollment management to develop different recruitment and retention strategies. All teams are very energetic which gives us cause for optimism. Until this storm passes, we will continue dancing in the rain.

**Lesley R. Brown, PhD**

Interim Dean, College of Arts and Sciences

# SU Foundation Volunteers

## Shippensburg University Foundation

Shippensburg University  
**FOUNDATION**  
Nurturing Excellence

Volunteers are an integral part of the Shippensburg University Foundation. Whether an alumnus, parent, or friend, loyal and dedicated volunteers provide advice, support, guidance, and hands-on assistance with different projects. Whatever your experience or field of interest, there are opportunities for you to help.

Making a monetary gift is one way you can have an impact on the work that is done at the SU Foundation. Your gift benefits the students at Shippensburg University and helps to nurture excellence by advancing the university's mission of teaching, research, and community service.

You also can help with your gift of time. The CAS Advisory Board and Advisory Councils for Communication, Journalism, and Media, Computer Science, Geography-Earth Science, and the Fashion Archives and Museum are critical to the ongoing success of each of their respective areas. These boards and councils are made up of volunteers who attend two meetings per year to advise the dean, the department chairs, and students on current

trends and needed skills in the marketplace.

The SU Foundation relies heavily on volunteers to help with annual fund and special event mailings. Volunteers have fun and joke around with other alumni and friends while stuffing envelopes. During our spring Thankathon, volunteers call donors to thank them for their support of the SU Foundation. As classes approach their 35th, 40th, 45th, and 50th reunions, committee members assist the SU Foundation with fundraising efforts for their Class Reunion Gift project.

The SU Foundation treasures volunteers; they are a precious commodity. Through you, we help advance the university's mission. We provide essential support so Ship can open its doors to more students, broaden its academic programming, expand critical research, and engage the region in powerful new partnerships.

Providing a scholarship or an internship at your place of business also is a valuable way to support the students at Ship by giving them industry experiences that will foster their

growth as individuals in their field.

If you would like to make a gift of your time, treasure, or talent, or want to learn more about how you can help, e-mail [contactus@sufoundation.org](mailto:contactus@sufoundation.org) or call (717) 477-1377.

There also are opportunities to volunteer with the Alumni Association to recruit students and answer questions from our confirmed students. Sending congratulatory notes to newly accepted students adds a personal touch from a non-admissions Ship family member. Many alumni have held small, informal receptions in their homes to welcome confirmed students and parents by sharing the Ship experience.

By mentoring a current student, you help to build confidence, provide meaningful feedback from a professional in their field of study, prepare them for life after college, and build relationships that can last a lifetime. You can learn more about the Alumni Office at [ship.edu/alumni](http://ship.edu/alumni).

[sufoundation.org](http://sufoundation.org)

## ADVISORY BOARD *Profile* VICKIE TRUNNEL '83

Vickie Trunnell '83 set out for Washington DC, after graduating from Shippensburg University with a bachelor's degree in computer science, working as a computer programmer for General Electric. She worked with several fellow new Ship graduates and eventually advanced as a developer and into a leadership role.

"GE liked how the college prepared students," she explained.

Employers express that same sentiment about Ship's computer science students today and Trunnell is proud to serve on College of Arts and Sciences Advisory Board to make sure that reputation remains intact.

"I believe the board is there to keep a coordination between what the school is doing and the reality of what happens in the workforce. We can be available to provide insights into what we are doing in our work today and help guide students on their individual journey," Trunnell said.

Throughout her career Trunnell was proud to represent women in computer science and wanted to encourage more women to enter the field. From several government contract positions to a role with the Joint Staff at the Pentagon, she's thankful for a fulfilling career. Today, she works in software development



primarily as a security-cleared contractor.

Throughout her career she would meet with deans from the College of Arts and Sciences when they were in the northern Virginia area. Those visits eventually led her to join the board.

She works hard to stay up-to-date with what is happening at Ship, a task she feels it important as the board works to provide support and find solutions to any challenges.

"We provide ideas and thoughts in helping shape how the college attracts students, as well as individually promoting the school to potential students/families. I enjoy meeting with other board alumni, as well as meeting and learning what is going on currently at Ship. I like hearing the ground truth of what is happening both within the computer science program, as well as the college as a whole," said Trunnell.

With retirement on the horizon in a few years, Trunnell's impact on the field of computer science and the support she's committed to Shippensburg University remains.

"While donations of money are important, a donation of time is equally important," added Trunnell.

# 150 Years of Fashion

## Shippensburg Steps Back in Time with FA&M

The Fashion Archives and Museum of Shippensburg University has been an operational establishment since 1980. It is the only museum dedicated to the preservation and exhibition of clothing and accessories within the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education.

This year, the university celebrated 150 years of Shippensburg University.

The Fashion Archives decided to honor this milestone by crafting an exhibition, highlighting different fashion throughout the 150 years of the school. The exhibition featured articles of clothing from past presidents, students and community members. The exhibition, which was assembled by Karin Bohleke, was slated to open last year but was postponed due to COVID-19.

The exhibition's new opening date was homecoming weekend and proved to be a huge success. Past alumni visiting for the weekend were able to walk through the university's long history and reminisce on the fashion trends and old uniforms throughout their years in college.

"It was fun listening to the alum walk in



the room and remember the certain pieces of clothing throughout the exhibition," said Bohleke.

Bohleke partnered with Christy Fic, an SU archivist and student from the university. According to Bohleke, the planning and execution of the project was successful due to months of dedication from all who were involved. "Christy and I had been planning

this project for months. Old textiles require conservation, so I needed time to prepare them. The physical installation began in August and it took three months to dress the mannequins in the proper attire."

When walking through the museum, the showcase was broken down into different categories such as, "School and Class Spirit, Music & Theatre and Campus Style." Each section is donned with pieces donated from different families and community members that share a relation with the university. The sections are also complimented by a brief description of the categories and some information about the clothing and accessory items. The written pieces were done by students of Bohleke and students in the English department.

Each piece of clothing in the exhibition has been donated by individuals who have a connection to Shippensburg University. Some people donated pieces specifically for this exhibition, while others gave their pieces to FA&M years before.

"People have items that they think fit into the collection and then they contact us. This exhibit has already brought other donations into the collection that we have just finished cataloguing," said Bohleke.

Featured in the exhibition were band uniforms from the 1940s, outfits worn by students during anti-war protests and clothing from the previous president's induction balls. "Most of the pieces were already in the archives. The Seavers donated their items themselves," said Bohleke.

The FA&M, which usually holds one to two exhibitions a year, is now beginning the installation of their newest project. The project is set to be a partnership with the Lancaster Spinners and Weavers Guild.

"The exhibit will feature creations by members of the guild combined with historic examples from the collection of the Fashion Archives & Museum," said Bohleke.

While the opening date of the exhibition is not set, it is scheduled for the middle of the Spring 2022 semester.

## Student Spotlight: CASSIDY FUNK

Cassidy Funk '22 spent her summer interning with the fastest growing donut shop in the US. As Duck Donuts' public relations intern, the communication/journalism major with a concentration in public relations gained valuable career experience and had the unique opportunity to help with a special service project.

"I've been really hands on in planning the franchise-wide annual Chemo Duck Campaign," Funk said.

Each year, Duck Donuts partners with Gabe's Chemo Duck Program, a non-profit organization that provides education, comfort through plush duck toys, medical play and therapeutic tools. During September, Childhood Cancer Awareness Month, franchise locations work to raise funds that go directly to local children's oncology units in the area. The company has donated nearly \$150,000 over five years.



# ShipComposts!

## University Earns \$25k Grant to Reduce Food Waste and Insecurity

Shippensburg University (SU) received a \$25,000 community improvement grant from the GIANT Company and Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful to launch a student-led composting project called ShipComposts. The university was one of only 42 applicants from across the state selected to receive funding.

The ShipComposts project concept was created by members of Enactus, a student organization focused on improving the world through entrepreneurship. Their idea led to a partnership with the Center for Land Use and Sustainability (CLUS), SU Campus Farm and Shippensburg Produce and Outreach. The initiative will help bridge issues related to food waste, food insecurity and soil health. Between 2015 and 2019, SU produced more than 1,100 tons of organic food waste: approximately 22 tons of waster per month.

“Food waste is a growing issue across the United States, and it’ll take incremental steps from people all over the country to limit the impacts of this waste. By responsibly composting Ship’s food waste, we can alleviate the campus’ greenhouse gas emissions,” explained Andrew Hare, junior supply chain management major, Enactus member and ShipComposts leader.

Hare and co-project lead Brooke Meyers, a senior marketing major, worked with CLUS to apply for the grant, which



specifically funds the infrastructure and equipment needed to start composting.

“Having equipment that allows us to gather, turn, mix, and otherwise aerate the lawn and food wastes (often called browns and greens), will allow us to keep the microbiome community within the compost healthy and doing their work to break down the materials to produce a healthy, finished compost,” said Dr. Sean Cornell, associate

professor of geography and earth science, CLUS affiliate scholar and SU Farm faculty advisor.

The finished compost will help the SU Farm continue to thrive and provide fresh produce to Shippensburg Produce and Outreach, a community initiative delivering produce to food insecure families. The hope is to sell any additional compost to local farms, creating financial support for the project long term.

And Hare is also hopeful the project inspires others to do their part.

“I’d also like to see this project spark an interest in sustainable practices among the student body. It ultimately falls on all of us to cultivate responsible and environmentally conscious lifestyles if we want to preserve the health of the planet,” said Hare.



“BY RESPONSIBLY *composting* SHIP’S FOOD WASTE, WE CAN ALLEVIATE THE CAMPUS’ GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS.”

On top of working to make this annual event a success, Funk gained experience writing press releases, media lists and media advisories and performed market research and analysis. She also helped to organize social media influencers for the brand.

She discovered the internship through Kristen Kellum ’12-’17M, PR and corporate communications manager at Duck Donuts, and was excited to work with Kellum and the company.

“My internship is giving me great experience working with an international brand that has a great company culture. They asked if I wanted to stay on board for the fall too and I’m so excited to continue,” said Funk.

An active member of the campus community, Funk gained valuable experience that prepared her for this internship. She is a member of PRSSA, President’s Student Advisory Council, SUSSI Board of Directors, Kappa Beta Gamma and is a student worker in the Alumni Relations Office.

In the classroom, she benefited from caring faculty who shared their personal field experience to enrich her educational experience.

“The network of Shippensburg alumni has also been very beneficial. For example, right now at Duck Donuts, not only is my supervisor a two-time Ship graduate but so is our CEO Betsy Hamm ’01-’05M. It has been amazing to work with them and ask for advice because they have quite literally been in my boat before,” said Funk.

She’s excited to continue her time with Duck Donuts this fall and will graduate in spring 2022. She has her sights set on a magical future after graduation and feels prepared to work for it.

“My post-graduation career goal is to be in the entertainment/hospitality industry and ultimately to work for the Disney Company,” she explained.

# An Engineer's Playground

## Students Work as Real Engineers in the New School of Engineering

In spring 2021, Shippensburg University welcomed a new addition to campus. The doors of the historic Steam Plant once again opened as the new home of the School of Engineering. The building, which decommissioned in 2015, was fully renovated to serve the growing needs of engineering students.

Fully equipped with civil and mechanical labs, the building now offers students the chance to work with real-world equipment and gain hands-on experience. The labs include space for students to complete projects and work with materials that a traditional classroom would not be able to accommodate.

The students within this program believe that the new building will offer a stronger learning experience and give undergraduates a better understanding of engineering concepts before they graduate.

Briana Paey, a senior mechanical engineering student, is thankful for the new building and believes that its addition to the program will benefit engineering students for years to come.

"We are engineers, and we need to be doing things. The Steam Plant gives mechanical and civil engineering students a place to apply concepts learned in the classroom. It gives a practical application. It is important to be able to do the job as you learn

and have hands-on experience," said Paey.

Nicole Baumgardner, a sophomore engineering student, shares her excitement about the newest building on campus.

"The building is amazing and provides a bunch of hands-on resources all in one spot. It quite literally is an engineer's playground," said Baumgardner.

The first civil and mechanical engineering students will graduate in the spring of 2022. The university launched the School of Engineering in 2018.

The School of Engineering offers computer science, computer, software (all three ABET accredited), electrical, civil and mechanical engineering.

## Faculty Focus

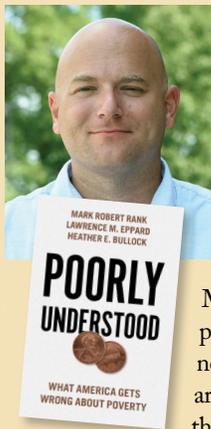
### LAWRENCE EPPARD'S BOOK NAMED TO "TOP 20 OF 2021" LIST

Dr. Lawrence Eppard's book *Poorly Understood: What America Gets Wrong About Poverty* was named to the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch's* "20 of Our Favorite New Books from 2021" list. Lawrence co-authored the book with Mark Robert Rank and Heather Bullock with the goal of changing the narrative surrounding poverty in the United States. The book was also reviewed by the *Washington Post* and the *New York Times* book review section.

The *Shippensburg University Magazine* featured a Q&A with Eppard discussing the book.

#### What inspired you to write this book?

There is so much information out there about every topic imaginable. To have a comprehensive understanding of any given topic, however, you need to know which information to look for, how to access it, and how to interpret it. This is challenging even for trained researchers, let alone the general public. So I just felt like it would be very useful for people to have so many of the important myths about American



poverty addressed in one place.

#### What is the biggest myth about poverty in America?

That's a hard one.

Most Americans would probably benefit from a deeper understanding of the relationship between race and economic disadvantage.

Most African Americans are not poor, and most poor people are not Black. But African Americans are disproportionately poor, and I think if more people understood the complex forces responsible for this relationship it would benefit our society in a number of important and positive ways.

Other important myths are that welfare fraud is rampant (it certainly happens but most recipients do not commit fraud), poor Americans are poor forever (a majority aren't poor for longer than a year or two), poverty happens to other people (it happens to most Americans), and that nothing can be done to reduce poverty.

#### How do we address/fix these misconceptions/myths?

This book is one effort! There has been

an incredible awakening in this country over the last 5-10 years or so concerning issues of racial and economic inequalities. It is incredibly encouraging. Getting reliable information out into the public discourse, keeping the conversation going on social media and in other arenas, it is really making a big difference.

#### What surprised you most during your research for this book?

I was shocked this book did not already exist. When I first came up with the idea I thought for sure I would find a book like this already published. Maybe there is one but I did not find it.

#### Do you incorporate this topic into your classes?

Absolutely. I teach introductory sociology courses, and poverty/social class/inequality are a big part of that course. I also teach courses on social inequality and race in America, so there is no escaping this topic.

#### Who do you hope reads this book?

I think college students should understand the basics of this stuff before they graduate. And of course I would love for the general public to understand it as well.

# A Conversation with President Patterson

## The Interim President's First Semester at Ship

President Patterson arrived at Shippensburg University in the middle of a challenging and unprecedented moment in higher education, returning to in-person learning after three semesters online. While the semester presented its challenges, there was also great triumph. As the semester came to an end, President Patterson reflected on his first semester as a Raider and what he hopes to see in the future.

### How has your first semester at Shippensburg University been?

My first semester has been great. Being back face-to-face on campus has allowed for me and Colleen [first lady] to become acquainted with new colleagues and friends, both on campus and in the community. I have spent a large part of the semester meeting with students, faculty, and staff—individually and in groups—to learn more about the great work that continues at Ship. This work also allows me to assess our institutional strengths and opportunities to position Ship to be the top choice for students.

### What was your first impression of Shippensburg University when you got here?

Having served as a university president in Pennsylvania's State System before coming to Ship, I was already familiar with the university's challenges and opportunities. There is an abundance of outstanding work being done by our students and faculty at Ship that the world needs to hear about.

### Were there any key events or moments that you will remember from this semester?

The fall 2021 semester has been full of memorable moments. Colleen and I have hosted many campus and community groups in the Martin House this semester. Our meeting with Dr. Michael Drager and the staff of The Slate was particularly impactful as we shared numerous stories related to the student experience. We were also able to make the trip to the NCAA Field Hockey Championship game in Millersville and celebrated with the team as the Raiders punctuated their 20-0 season by winning their sixth NCAA national championship. So very cool!



“THERE IS AN ABUNDANCE OF *outstanding* WORK BEING DONE BY OUR STUDENTS THAT THE WORLD NEEDS TO HEAR ABOUT.”

### This was the first semester back on campus since the pandemic began. What has been the most challenging aspect of the transition from online learning back to in-person learning? How do you think the students adapted to the transition and was there anything that you found surprising about how the semester went?

Students' ability to transition back to in-person learning has been varied. Some students expressed early trepidation about returning to in-person instruction and on-campus living, and the most challenging aspect of the transition has been personal wellness. However, as we emerge from the prior pandemic state where many events were curtailed or limited, most have welcomed the in-person experience and the ability to actively participate in so many of our Ship programs.

### What sets Ship apart from other schools you have served?

The level of engagement at Ship through academic and extracurricular programming provides a remarkable experience. And there continues to be a strong passion for Ship among so many of our stakeholders. We are renewing partnerships and making new connections that will position Ship for the future.

### Do you have a favorite spot on-campus that you like to walk/go to?

The hill behind Horton Hall that overlooks the Robb Sports Complex. Our dog Oliver loves this hill too!

### What are you looking forward to next semester?

I look forward to championing Shippensburg University and fighting to ensure the continued success of our students, faculty, and staff. It is why we serve.



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Contact the SU Foundation

For information on how you can support the students, faculty, and programs of the College of Arts and Sciences and Shippensburg University, please contact the SU Foundation at (717) 477-1377 or visit the website at [sufoundation.org](http://sufoundation.org). The SU Foundation is a not-for-profit corporation that seeks financial resources and provides services to support and enhance the mission of Shippensburg University.

Help us save



one of these!

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CAS advisory board

The College of Arts and Sciences Advisory Board is composed of alumni, friends of Shippensburg University, and faculty emeriti of the college. Its purpose is to share professional and personal perspective on matters relating to academic philosophy and practice, internships and cooperative learning opportunities, and professional development for faculty; to provide financial assistance; and to become involved in the curricular and extracurricular programs of the college. With thanks, we recognize the current members of the board:

- |                             |                         |                      |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|
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