A professional studio portrait of Suzanne Shipley, a woman with short, wavy brown hair, smiling warmly. She is wearing a dark, pinstriped blazer over a light-colored top, a pearl necklace, and gold earrings. Her hands are clasped in her lap, resting on a wooden chair. The background is a soft, mottled studio backdrop.

*Suzanne Shipley accepts
a new presidency in
her home state of Texas after
eight years at Shepherd*

Shepherd
UNIVERSITY
Magazine

Volume 21, No. 1 • Fall 2015

Carolyn Malachi '06, Paul and Lisa Welch honored at 142nd Commencement

Alumna CAROLYN MALACHI '06, a Grammy-nominated singer/songwriter, social activist, and philanthropist, delivered the commencement address at Shepherd's 142nd Commencement May 9. Malachi also was awarded a doctor of letters honorary degree.

Also honored at the ceremony were Shepherdstown residents Paul and Lisa Welch, who received the President's Award in recognition of their contributions to Shepherd and the community.

Carolyn Malachi has been described by MTV as "one of five R&B artists to obsess over" and one of her songs, *Fall Winter Spring Summer*, was named by NPR to its list of 10 Songs Public Radio Can't Stop Playing. She released albums *Revenge of the Smart Chicks* in 2008 and *Revenge of the Smart Chicks II* in

Virginia University–Eastern Division, chair of the pharmacy and therapeutics committee and vice president of the medical executive committee at Berkeley Medical Center in Martinsburg, and a fellow of the American College of Physicians.

Lisa Welch is a licensed pharmacist who serves as an independent consultant to the pharmaceutical industry. She earned a bachelor of science degree in pharmacy from the University of Texas at Austin and a master of administrative science degree from Johns Hopkins University. She completed a residency in hospital pharmacy at the National Institutes of Health.

She is a board member of the West Virginia Humanities Council, the Eastern West Virginia Community Foundation, and the Scarborough Society. She is a member of the capital campaign



Cecelia Mason

2009. Her 2010 EP release, *Lions, Fires & Squares*, earned a 2011 Best Urban /Alternative Performance Grammy award nomination for the single *Orion*. She and her music ensemble recently toured Taiwan, China, and New Guinea as part of the American Music Abroad Program.

Malachi serves on the Recording Academy's D.C. Chapter Board of Governors. The IAM Campaign, a partnership with The School Fund, uses her music and video content to fund education opportunities for students in developing countries.

Malachi, who earned a bachelor of science in business administration from Shepherd, played center on the women's basketball team for two years, served on Program Board, and was a member of the Multicultural Leadership Team.

Dr. Paul Welch is a clinical nephrologist practicing in the Eastern Panhandle. He retired from the U.S. Army as a colonel in 2004, serving his entire active duty military career at Walter Reed Army Medical Center where he served as chief of nephrology, program director for nephrologist training, and consultant to the Army Surgeon General for nephrology. He earned a bachelor of arts degree in biology from the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga and a doctor of medicine and a master of public health from Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences.

Welch is clinical associate professor of medicine at West Virginia University, internal medicine clerkship director at West

Above (l. to r.): Paul and Lisa Welch receive the President's Award; Carolyn Malachi '06 smiles as she is hooded; and President Suzanne Shipley presents an honorary doctorate to Malachi.

During the ceremony, 774 undergraduates earned bachelor's degrees and 71 graduate students earned master's degrees. Members of the Class of 2015 were part of Shepherd's largest graduating class.

committee of the Shepherdstown Public Library, co-founder and coordinator of the Shepherdstown Film Society, a volunteer with the Jefferson County Community Ministries, and a member of the Two Rivers Giving Circle.

The couple established the Paul and Lisa Welch Distinguished Awards Program in 2013 to help prepare Shepherd students and faculty for prestigious scholarships and awards like the Fulbright, Rhodes, and MacArthur. The Welches provided funding for Shepherd's new doctor of nursing practice degree program and for the PAUL AND LISA WELCH ENDOWMENT, which provides funding support to programs that engage the community in the intellectual life of the university.

The Welches are patrons of the Contemporary American Theater Festival. They co-commissioned the play *H2O*, which had its world premiere in 2013, and co-sponsored the play *On Clover Road*, which had its world premiere at CATF this summer. ♣

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Back Cover: 142nd Commencement..
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CLASS NOTES may be emailed to alumni@shepherd.edu. The deadline for the spring 2016 issue is November 1. Photos are welcomed; digital images must be at least 300 dpi.

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Shepherd Today

From the President

Joy and sorrow and a fond farewell



Gary Kable

President Suzanne Shipley

As I reflect on these eight years as Shepherd's president, it is very clear that our accomplishments were created together and our disappointments faced together. The Germans have a saying: *geteilte Freude, doppelte Freude, geteiltes Leid, halbes Leid*, which means that shared joy is doubled and shared sorrow is halved.

From our early days creating the Crossroads strategic plan and general education reform, to our exciting master plan for facilities, our first comprehensive fundraising campaign, the addition of two dozen new faculty positions, and several record-breaking graduating classes, it has been the energy and enthusiasm of faculty, staff, students, alumni, and the Board of

Governors that have propelled Shepherd forward. Now we look forward to our first doctoral program; we are able to pass safely from east to west campus via the underpass; we enjoy first-rate student presentations and performances in the classroom, on the stage, court, and field. Shepherd's beautiful campus is enhanced by historic buildings, lovely plantings, and the welcome new donation of vibrant pieces of contemporary outdoor sculpture. Shepherd is unstoppable, no matter what life brings our way!

It is no secret that we are facing challenging fiscal times. Through careful spending and targeted reductions, we achieved a balanced budget again this year, but it is becoming ever more difficult to do so. With extra effort by our hardworking staff and faculty, we are seeing new student enrollments return to a vibrant pace and retention hold steady. This year's budget shows continued reductions in spending in response to reductions in state support and inflationary increases in the cost of doing business in an environment of high competition. Rather than lose hope or momentum, we are moving ahead in these difficult times, some days deciding that baby steps are better than no steps at all.

So what do I wish for Shepherd? I wish for calmer times with less uncertainty, more public support, and less cumbersome federal reporting requirements. I wish for increased compensation for our highly talented faculty and loyal staff. I wish for courage and unity. It will be unity and a combined sense of purpose that can make Shepherd stand out among the best public liberal arts universities in the country. Of that I am quite sure. ♡

Shepherd offers first doctoral program

Shepherd University is offering its first doctoral degree—the doctor of nursing practice (D.N.P.)—this fall semester. The D.N.P., which was given final approval by the Institutional Actions Council of the Higher Learning Commission, is housed at the Martinsburg Center.

“This is excellent news and historic news for Shepherd as we begin our very first doctoral program,” said Dr. Scott Beard, associate vice president for academic affairs and dean of graduate studies. “This is a program that we’re really excited about; it’s something that we’ve been planning for over the last four years as we looked at how we can provide educational programs that meet the needs of the profession and also the critical needs of the region.”

The D.N.P. program will offer three concentrations: nursing leadership–education, nursing leadership–administration, and nurse practitioner–family nurse practitioner. Dr. Sharon Mailey, chair of the Department of Nursing Education, said the program was created to address real needs in the community.

“The region needs greater access to nursing faculty,” she said. “We have a shortage of nursing faculty nationwide. And these nurses will help fill that void.”

Mailey said education and administration students will be better prepared to become leaders in places like hospitals, nursing organizations, nonprofit organizations, and academia.

The program requires students to have a minimum of 1,000 hours of hands-on experience working in the community with health care professionals, educators, and administrators throughout the region. Admission criteria include having a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 for a baccalaureate degree and for all work beyond the baccalaureate level, a current unencumbered R.N. license in the state of West Virginia, a letter describing how the student envisions using the D.N.P. degree, and two professional references.

Nursing is one of the largest undergraduate programs at Shepherd with 454 prenursing and nursing majors. ♡



Cecelia Mason

Dr. Sharon Mailey, chair of the Department of Nursing Education, and Dr. Scott Beard, dean of graduate studies, were instrumental in developing the D.N.P. program, Shepherd's first doctoral degree.

Best named an 2015-16 ACE Fellow

Dr. Jason Best, professor of astronomy and astrophysics, has been named an American Council on Education (ACE) Fellow for academic year 2015-16.



Michael Purvis, Purvis Photography

Dr. Jason Best

The ACE Fellows Program is designed to strengthen institutions and leadership in American higher education by identifying and preparing emerging leaders for senior positions in college and university administration. Best is among 47 Fellows who were nominated by the senior administration of their institutions and selected this year following a rigorous application process.

“Jason Best has contributed in myriad ways to shared governance at Shepherd, building bridges between faculty and administrators as Faculty Senate president, Board of Governors elected representative of the faculty, and a highly engaged board member of the university Foundation,” said

President Suzanne Shipley. “He is not only one of Shepherd’s star faculty members, but a symbol of the type of powerful collaboration needed to move higher education forward. Jason’s dynamism and scientific curiosity will serve him well during his semester as an ACE Fellow, and he will return to Shepherd with a powerful new set of tools to apply to our promising future.”

Best teaches courses in astronomy, physics, and physical sciences. He came to Shepherd in 1997 after earning his baccalaureate degree in astronomy and astrophysics from Indiana University and doctoral degree in astronomy and astrophysics from Pennsylvania State University.

Best has been elected to numerous terms as a member of the university’s Board of Governors and has also served for many years on the Shepherd University Foundation board of directors and on the Foundation’s executive committee. He was elected to two terms as president of the Faculty Senate, served as Senate parliamentarian, and chaired the university Institutional Review Board. He completed a term as president of the West Virginia Academy of Science and has been a member of the National Advisory Committee for the PRAXIS Earth and Space Sciences Examination.

Best has published research in numerous venues, including the *Astrophysical Journal* and the *Journal of Computing Sciences in Colleges*, and has received research grants from the National Science Foundation and the West Virginia Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research. In 2006 he established the Shepherd University Observatory using an Innovation Grant from West Virginia EPSCoR and is currently the observatory director.

As an ACE Fellow, Best will focus on undergraduate research, an issue of concern to Shepherd University, while working with Dr. Thomas J. Botzman, president of Misericordia University in Pennsylvania, who will serve as Best’s mentor. ➤

Former HLC leader Sylvia Manning named Shepherd interim president

Dr. Sylvia Manning began her appointment as the interim president in August. The Board of Governors approved her selection to lead the university June 23.

Manning served as the president of the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association from 2008-2014. The HLC is the accrediting body for colleges and universities, including Shepherd, in 19 states.

She has served as the interim chancellor (1999-2000) and chancellor (2000-2007) at the University of Illinois at Chicago and as the vice president for academic affairs at the University of Illinois (1994-1999).

Manning served for two decades in various roles at the University of Southern California, rising to executive vice provost. She began her career at California State University, Hayward, as an assistant professor of English.

Manning earned a Ph.D. and an M.A. in English language and literature from Yale University and a B.A. in English from McGill University.

A native of Montreal, Canada, Manning holds dual U.S. and Canadian citizenship.

A search committee made up of faculty, staff, students, community members, and members of the Board of Governors has been convened to identify the 16th president of Shepherd. ➤

Sedlock named VP for advancement

Christopher E. “Chris” Sedlock joined Shepherd’s administration in July as the vice president for university advancement, which includes development, alumni affairs, and university communications. Serving as the chief development officer, Sedlock is responsible for developing fundraising strategies and identifying and soliciting gifts.

Before coming to Shepherd, Sedlock served as senior development officer and manager of strategic community initiatives for University Hospitals in Cleveland, Ohio, for three years. For 16 years, he worked at Cleveland State University, beginning as assistant to the director in the Department of Intercollegiate Athletics, then rising to assistant director for development and associate director for external affairs.

Sedlock also spent seven years at Ohio State University as a development officer and director of the Cleveland Regional Office, and worked in public relations for Walsh University, Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield, and Standard Oil Company of Ohio.

He received a master of arts degree in education from Walsh University and a bachelor of arts degree in journalism/public relations from Ohio State. ➤



Cecelia Mason

Christopher E. Sedlock

Shepherd Today

Shibley reflects on her tenure at Shepherd

Shepherd University bid farewell in July to its 15th president, Dr. Suzanne Shibley, as she left to lead Midwestern State University in Texas.

During her eight-year tenure, there were visible changes, including campus beautification and the construction of new buildings and other facilities. Not-so-visible changes included expansion of and improvements to programs and stepped-up fundraising efforts.

When asked to name the three accomplishments of which she is most proud, the first thing Shibley mentioned was completion of the underpass that allows students, faculty, staff, and visitors to walk from east to west campus without dodging traffic on Route 480.

“There are many things that are more important than construction, but the reason the underpass means a lot to me is it really is a symbolic bridge between a campus that was divided, and I like having a campus united,” she said. “It is also an indication of how important students and student safety are to us.”

Shibley said construction of the underpass was accomplished because the campus, town, state highway department, and local politicians worked together. Shibley commended State Senator John Unger (D-16th) for going to bat after the project was completed to get the state to replace about \$1 million Shepherd spent to build the underpass.

“John Unger stepped up as a state senator and let the highway depart-

ment know that he didn’t think enrollment money should be used for highway improvements,” she said.

Shibley also is proud of Shepherd’s membership in the Council of Public Liberal Arts Colleges.

“That has made a big difference in our self concept,” Shibley said. “When you go to some of the best public liberal arts campuses in the country, we compare well with them. It tells me there are a lot of really great things happening at Shepherd, and we deserve to be proud of what we can do.”

Shibley considers the ability for students to graduate more quickly another major accomplishment. Shepherd was the first institution in West Virginia to reduce the number of credit hours needed to graduate from 128 to 120. In the fall of 2011, Shepherd began offering its first 120-credit hour degrees. Shibley said this was done without sacrificing quality and achieved the goal of having more students earn degrees more quickly, which reduced the cost of their education.

“Our graduation numbers edged up over the past three years,” she said. “It was all the curricular work we did around the 120 hours. It was the close attention we paid to retention and advising, and it shows that when we set our minds to doing something that’s important to our students, we can make a difference.”

Shepherd awarded 749 bachelor’s and master’s degrees in 2013. That number rose to 810 in 2014 and to 845 in 2015.

Shibley said when she first arrived at Shepherd in 2007, the Board of Governors gave her “marching orders to grow the graduate program and increase engagement in fundraising.”

At that time Shepherd’s first comprehensive fundraising campaign, Create the Future, was already underway. Bob McMillan chaired the campaign, and Jenny Ewing Allen and RAY ALVAREZ ’62 served as vice chairs. All three, along with their spouses, had each committed to a generous donation to lay the groundwork for the campaign that Shibley was



Gary Kable

President Suzanne Shibley rides in the Homecoming 2013 parade with Shepherdstown Mayor Jim Auxer '69.

charged with bringing to a successful completion.

Shibley said at that time she secretly set a goal of someday donating just as generously to Shepherd herself. She saw her presidential philanthropy as a way to mirror the leadership of Shepherd’s loyal supporters.

The first gift Shibley and her husband, Randy Wadsworth, gave was in 2007 to the CREATE THE FUTURE ENDOWMENT, which provides support for students to study and faculty to conduct research abroad. She was shocked to learn that the Shepherd University Foundation had decided to match the gift as a welcome gesture to the new presidential couple. The fund totals more than \$50,000.

“It is actually generating enough funding now to send professors and students abroad,” Shibley said.

Another major gift from Shibley and Wadsworth is a handmade Italian Fazioli piano that sits in a Frank Center recital hall named in honor of her father, Walker Horton Shibley, who died in 2000.

“I never had really come to terms with my father’s death. He and I were unbelievably close,” she said. “Randy and I got so much enjoyment out of the music program, and I kept hearing the Shepherd jazz band and other groups play ’40s dance music that I had heard my father play.”

Shibley said her father spent one year studying music at Baylor University before he entered World War II as a



Gary Kable

Left: President Shibley poses with Zan, the Ram mascot named in her honor.

member of the Army Air Corps. After he returned from the war, Horton Shipley went into business, first as the owner of radio and TV stations, then in personnel management. But Shipley said her father continued to play music.

“He played the organ every day when he came home from work,” she said. “I’d stand next to him, and he’d play me songs. He would have me choose what I wanted to hear. So we had kind of a musical relationship.”

Shipley’s mother, Mary Jane, matched the gift of the piano by endowing a music scholarship in her husband’s name. Upon the occasion of her 90th birthday last year, a scholarship supporting female student athletes and bearing Mary Jane Shipley’s name was created.

“There are so many people who love Shepherd and want to help,” President Shipley said. “So what we have tried to do in advancement and in the Foundation is not to pressure people to give, but see if they have goals that we can help them achieve at Shepherd that improves Shepherd while realizing their dreams.”

While Wadsworth has supported Shipley through the donations they have made to the university as a couple, he has also provided the kind of personal support she’s needed during the past eight

years of her presidency.

“Randy is a tremendously nurturing and positive individual. When I have days when I feel a bit down—because no matter how much people like your work, a president absorbs a lot of criticism—Randy has a terrific way of making things better. He will have a glass of wine on the table for me, offer a walk with the dogs or a wonderful meal with relaxing conversation. His caring makes our house a home and our life a rich family life.”

Wadsworth, who grew up in Cincinnati, studied biological engineering at Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology in Terre Haute, Indiana, and earned a degree in pharmacy from the University of Cincinnati James L. Winkle College of Pharmacy. Wadsworth has worked as a clinical pharmacist, a retail pharmacy manager, nursing home pharmacist, and in pharmacy computer management in Ohio, Arizona, Kentucky, and Maryland.

When they first moved to Shepherdstown, Wadsworth was working at the Greater Baltimore Medical Center. Between 2007-2011 he worked in Hagerstown, Maryland, at the Washington County Hospital and Meritus Medical Center.

Wadsworth retired in 2012 and for the past three years has pursued a range of interests that includes hiking, biking, photography, and art. He also enjoys reading about a wide variety of topics that include the scientific validation of herbal medicine, organic food and farming, investigative journalism of all types but particularly health and wellness, and investing. Shipley credits him with keeping her up to date and well informed on many issues.

“He has a very broad-ranging set of interests that expand my thinking on our economic and political environment,” she said.

Shipley is also grateful for her husband’s support of Shepherd athletics and the music program. Before assuming this position, the couple took part in an outreach initiative funded by the Lilly Foundation. Administrators from faith-based institutions who aspired to a presidency were competitively reviewed for selection. Their participation helped them outline their goals as a couple.

(continued on page 30)

Shipley Administration Accomplishments 2007-2015

- Installation of turf in Ram Stadium and the addition of lacrosse as a sanctioned sport
- Adding a computer engineering degree
- Creation of two strategic plans, Crossroads 2008-2014 and Currents 2015-2022
- Acceptance in the Council for Public Liberal Arts Colleges (COPLAC)
- Reducing the hours required for graduation from 128 to 120
- Updating Shepherd’s general education requirements
- Establishing a grant support director position to assist with new grant-funding opportunities
- Seeing Shepherd named to the National Community Service Honor Roll
- Receiving reaccreditation from the Higher Learning Commission
- Seeing the university’s Create Campaign exceed its \$20 million goal to reach \$26 million
- Construction of new baseball and softball stands
- Completion of the Center for Contemporary Arts Phase II and the Marinoff Theater
- Creation of the new Mountain East Conference for athletics
- Creating a master facilities plan for 2014-2024
- Opening the Martinsburg Center
- Construction of an underpass linking east and west campus
- Construction of the soccer complex
- Increasing student and faculty involvement internationally
- Being listed as one of the top 30 Promising Places to Work in Student Affairs
- Implementation of Shepherd’s first doctorate, the doctor of nursing practice (D.N.P.)



Gary Kable

President Suzanne Shipley and
Randy Wadsworth

Shepherd Today

Dr. Carl Bell retires after a 54-year teaching career at Shepherd

When Dr. Carl Bell, professor emeritus of biology, first came to Shepherd in 1961, Oliver S. Ikenberry was the college's president, the campus consisted of 33 acres, tuition and fees cost \$103 a semester for in-state and \$253 a semester for out-of-state students, and enrollment was 900.



Cecelia Mason

Dr. Carl Bell at commencement in May.



Courtesy Scarborough Library

Carl F. Bell, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor
of Biology



Cecelia Mason

Left: The 1962 *Cohongroota* yearbook shows Carl Bell during his second year of teaching at Shepherd.

Above: Bell is pictured after having the title professor emeritus of biology bestowed upon him during the April Board of Governors meeting.

In the 54 years he's taught at Shepherd, Bell has seen a lot of changes. Bell has worked under five presidents and at least two interim presidents. Shepherd is now a university with 323 acres and a Martinsburg Center offering undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral degrees. Tuition and fees are \$3,285 per semester for in-state undergraduate students and \$8,314 for out-of-state students, and enrollment is 4,041.

"Once I arrived at Shepherd, there didn't seem to be anything else out there that represented an opportunity that was more interesting, more fascinating, and more rewarding than staying at Shepherd and continuing to interact with students, faculty, and nature," Bell said.

Bell has taught just about every biology class offered at one time or another, but his most regularly offered class was an introductory botany course called Plants as Organisms. The class provided an opportunity for Bell to take students outside to observe organisms in their natural habitat. He frequently conducted classes at the C&O Canal National Historical Park, on the undeveloped parts of West Campus, and at a marshy area near the railroad tracks in Shepherdstown.

"Students have walked by without noticing some things, and part of the edu-

cational process is getting them to pay attention, watch, and see what's going on," Bell said.

"The marsh habitat provides a unique opportunity to see things within a very close walking distance of the campus," he said. "There are a lot of natural history opportunities to see what's developing there—like birds, wildflowers, and butterflies."

Bell, who founded the campus tree committee, said he preferred taking students in the field rather than having them study inside the confines of a classroom.

"I like to get outside walking in the woods," he said. "It has been nice around Shepherdstown because there are a lot of field habitats with a diversity of things to see and a diversity of things to introduce students into the fascination of wilderness and natural history."

Bell's own fascination with nature began when he was a child growing up on a small farm in Ohio. When he was about 12, his primary interest was in critters, like snakes, frogs, and fish. But he gradually came to also appreciate trees and wildflowers.

"So it's been pretty much a lifelong interest in nature and in natural habitats, and pretty much walking alone in the woods to see what all was there," he said. "It was just pleasant for me to get out and see and do things."

After graduating from high school, Bell pursued a bachelor of science degree from Muskingum College in New Concord, Ohio, and a master's degree from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio. He received his Ph.D. from Ohio State University in 1961, just before taking the job at Shepherd.

One significant contrast Bell notes is how much the student body

has changed over the 54 years he's taught at Shepherd. When he first arrived, most students came from a rural, farming background.

"They were already essentially in contact with nature as a result of that farm experience," he said. "So the trees and wildflowers and birds and butterflies and furry creatures were things that they had observed, that they knew the names of. Students nowadays have almost none of that farm background. They're all urban-type people, and birds and butterflies and furry creatures are a mystery to them."

Bell said urban students often had to start learning about nature from scratch. He found it rewarding when they discovered an interest in what they saw when they went on class field trips, and he took particular pride in those who went on to become naturalists, carrying on the tradition of educating others.

"That is certainly rewarding to know that they had enough interest to keep it going," he said.

One of the highlights of Bell's career was seeing students go on to earn higher degrees like the Ph.D., M.D., or D.V.M. Bell said over the years Shepherd's reputation has increased, giving graduates the background and intellectual ability to pursue opportunities like these.

"The student has a reason to be proud of a Shepherd degree," Bell said. "It gives them academic and professional opportunities that may not have been appreciated earlier. Our graduates have gone out and not only made a name for themselves, but made a name for Shepherd."

Bell, who is the longest-serving employee ever at Shepherd, said he left at a good time.

"There are very good people in the

biology department so the department is going to be in good shape, and Shepherd is in pretty good shape," he said. "Some people claim that I'm going to be missed, but I don't have the feeling that there would be any reason to have any despair about what happens to students, what happens to the educational program. Things will keep on going just as well, in many cases better, than when I was around to provide my input."

Although he gave up his teaching duties, Bell doesn't plan to have an idle retirement.

"I will walk in the woods. I will plant gardens. I will keep up with the progress of the natural history of birds and butterflies and Eastern Panhandle habitats," he said. "I will stop by the department and stop by the college to see what's going on—offer my advice, and expect my advice to be ignored, just as it has been for the past years.

"It has been very rewarding teaching," he added. "The very good students have made it rewarding and pleasant." — *Cecelia Mason*

Top right: Dr. Bell interacts with students during a tree planting at Shepherd. Bell organized and founded the campus tree committee.

Right: Bell was invited to deliver the Last Lecture, given by an esteemed retiring faculty member, at the McMurrin Scholars convocation in April.

Left: Bell is shown with students in the classroom (circa 1974).

Career Highlights

- The DR. CARL BELL BIOLOGY FUND, endowed with the Shepherd University Foundation and designated for students pursuing a degree in the biological sciences, was started when biology graduates of the Class of 1967 answered a challenge issued by DR. PHILIP SPAULDING '67. Bell's former students recognized and honored him as a mentor and an inspiration.

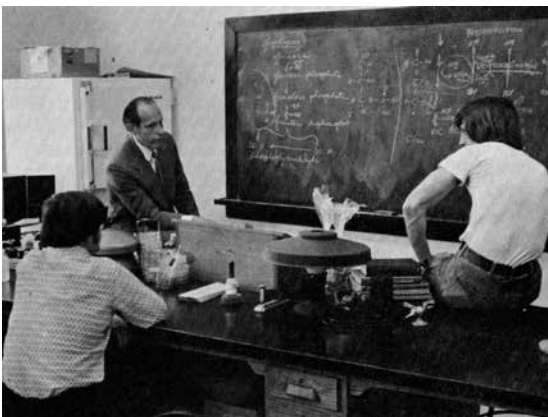
- In July 1998, a lab was named in Bell's honor in the Robert C. Byrd Science and Technology Center.



Tanner Had, Project CommunityTree



Cecelia Mason



Shepherd Today

Business major Jill Upson represents the 65th Delegate District in the legislature

Many students who attend Shepherd University hold down jobs, but none are quite as unique as Jill Upson's. When she's not working on class projects or studying, Upson represents the 65th Delegate District in the West Virginia Legislature as the first African American Republican woman to be elected to that body.

Upson, 49, a senior majoring in business with a concentration in entrepreneurship and a minor in marketing, is on

until late in the evening Monday through Saturday and attending training or events on Sunday.

Upson said a "kind and merciful" professor suggested she drop her one online class, which she planned to finish this summer.

"I wasn't able to juggle all the things in the air that I wanted to, but I wouldn't change a thing," she said. "Being able to serve and being able to help others—there's nothing like it. I just think serving others is part of my purpose."

Upson began pursuing her degree at age 46, after she first ran for office in 2012 and lost. She had previously attended community college in the 1980s at age 18 in California, where she grew up, but never earned a degree because she started working and liked earning money.

"I just let school move into the background until eventually life took over—marriage, kids, fast-forward, and here I am," she said. "Being older now, I really appreciate every aspect of being here. I enjoy walking in the cold and in the snow, sitting in the library and studying, being in class, and just everything associated with it."

"I've even gotten to the point where I can tolerate group projects," she said, laughing. "I'm enjoying it and I think it gives me a unique perspective when



Cecelia Mason

Jill Upson

addressing legislative issues."

While Upson was initially hesitant about running for political office, she is now glad she chose to do so.

"The most gratifying thing is that I'm in a position where I can help people or, if I can't help, direct them to someone who can," she said. "I really enjoy being able to respond to someone who has a problem or issue and have that problem resolved."

Her advice for others who might consider running while attending college—go for it.

"We really need more voices in public life," she said. "I would just encourage everybody who has even an inkling that they might want to do it to just pursue it, to just try it." ♣ *Cecelia Mason*



Perry Bennett, West Virginia Legislative Photography

Business major Jill Upson on the floor of the West Virginia House of Delegates.

schedule to graduate in December 2015. Upson took classes during the fall 2014 semester while campaigning. She would attend classes at Shepherd until noon or 1 p.m., grab a quick lunch, and then head out to campaign and go to events.

"That was really a busy time, and of course I was trying to maintain my grades," she said. "It was a tough balancing act to keep up with everything."

That balancing act became even tougher once she won and the demand on her time increased. Upson thought she would be able to take one online class during the spring 2015 semester while serving in the legislature in Charleston during the 60-day session. But she found herself working from early in the morning

Sculpture studio named in honor of Dow Benedict



Cecelia Mason

Dow Benedict and President Suzanne Shipley

The sculpture studio in the Center for Contemporary Arts is now named after Dow Benedict, professor of art and dean of the School of Arts and Humanities.

Faculty, staff, students, and community members gathered April 5 to dedicate the studio and celebrate Benedict's 44 years of teaching at Shepherd.

Benedict became chair of the Division of Arts and Humanities in 1999, a title that changed to dean, School of Arts and Humanities by 2003. Among his accomplishments as dean are overseeing the ongoing renovation of the Frank Center and construction of both phases of the Center for Contemporary Arts, completed in 2008 and 2013. ♣

Poet Nikki Giovanni to be Writer-in-Residence in October

Nikki Giovanni will receive the Appalachian Heritage Writer's Award during a weeklong writer's residency October 2-10. She will serve throughout the year as the Appalachian Heritage Writer-in-Residence, selecting the winners of the West Virginia Fiction Competition and assisting editors of the *Anthology of Appalachian Writers, Nikki Giovanni Volume*, in putting together the eighth volume in the annual anthology series.

From the beginning, “Nikki,” as her sister Gary christened her, eschewing the Yolande Cornelia Giovanni, Jr. that her parents formally named her, was cast as an original and then the mold was discarded. As a child, Giovanni was a risk taker, highly intelligent, immensely creative, charismatic, and a lover of language.

Influenced by her fiery, outspoken, and free-thinking grandmother Emma Lou, Giovanni became a singular, individualistic child—her mentor and middle school teacher Sister Althea Augustine wrote this of her: “...she was a brilliant, precocious child, an avid reader, and independent thinker and doer. She would come to school at her convenience and leave the same regardless of school regulations” (from Virginia Fowler’s *Nikki Giovanni, A Literary Biography*).

Early on Giovanni became enthralled by the grace, intrepidity, and sheer stamina of her people in the face of social injustice, and it was clear that no common path would be hers.

After graduating from Fisk University in Tennessee, Giovanni published her first book, *Black Feeling Black Talk* (1967), and following a short stint in the social work program at the University of Pennsylvania and another at the School of Fine Arts at Columbia University in an M.F.A. program, where she was told she couldn’t write, she moved to New York City where she settled into what she knew very well she could do better than anyone else, soon making a name for herself as part of the Black Arts Movement. It took only the public’s awareness of her first two collections of poetry (*Black Judgment* 1968) for Giovanni to be embraced as a new kind of American poet, not obscure and university pampered, but a poet of the people. *Black Feeling Black Talk* sold more than 10,000 copies while Giovanni was organizing for the Black Arts Movement and living in New York; that association and the interest of the *New York Times* were all it took for Giovanni to begin to make a name for herself.

During the 1970s, she co-founded a publishing company, NikTom, Ltd., that encouraged and published African American women writers, among whom were Gwendolyn Brooks, Margaret Walker, and Mari Evans. By the middle of that decade, Giovanni had become a cultural and literary force to be reckoned with.

Over the years since, Giovanni has been incredibly prolific, publishing more than 30 volumes of nonfiction, poetry, books for children, and essays. Her autobiography, *Gemini*, was a finalist for the National Book Award; *Love Poems, Blues: For All the Changes*, *Quilting the Black-Eyed Pea*, and *Bicycles* were significant in garnering for her a number of NAACP Image Awards. Giovanni was recipient of the Rosa Parks Woman of Courage Award and the Langston Hughes Medal for Outstanding Poetry. In 2004 she was nominated for a Grammy for her poetry collection on CD, *Nikki Giovanni Poetry Collection*. Giovanni holds the Distinguished Professor in English position at Virginia Tech.

Giovanni is unapologetically political, deeply defiant, and, as one critic has written, “unabashedly Afrocentric.” And yet, lost in that voice and consumed by such a genuine personality, one is seduced by its authenticity and the empathy that emanates from her words. Her poems deal with gender topics, revisioning the black family, social injustice, the everyday and every way of black life, art, and poetry. Whether we are black, white, or somewhere in between, she makes us do a double-take on our accepted ideas about convention and the way we “think” things are.

Nikki Giovanni is one of a handful of the greatest living poets in America today. She is a writer who has expressed both the American experience and the African-American experience, and over the years she has evolved into a universal writer transcending an earlier title of Princess of Black Poetry. She has said many times that the ability of her people to survive, to thrive, to profoundly influence American culture and the literary landscape, and to prevail in the racially charged and polarized society that is ours even today has fascinated her all her life, and as we read her vast and fearless canon, we are equally enthralled.

◆ Sylvia Bailey Shurbutt



Photo courtesy Nikki Giovanni

Nikki Giovanni

· GIOVANNI RESIDENCY HIGHLIGHTS ·

· WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7:

7 P.M. “The Writing Life, with Nikki Giovanni,” Robert C. Byrd Center for Legislative Studies. Giovanni will discuss her work, the writing process, and her journey toward authorship and publication.

· THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8:

8 P.M. Scarborough Society Lecture and Awards Ceremony, Erma Ora Byrd Hall. Giovanni will receive the Appalachian Heritage Writer's Award and present her Scarborough Society keynote address, “Chasing Appalachia, Looking for Home,” followed by reception and book signing. The West Virginia Fiction Competition awards will be presented by Giovanni.

For a complete list of residency events, please visit www.shepherd.edu/ahwirweb/giovanni/.

The residency events are made possible with financial support from the West Virginia Humanities Council, in partnership with the Shepherd University Foundation, the West Virginia Center for the Book, the Scarborough Society at Shepherd University, the Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, the Shepherdstown Film Society, the Martinsburg Public Library, Four Seasons Books, the West Virginia Division of Culture and History, the West Virginia Commission on the Arts, and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Athletic Hall of Fame to honor four new members

The Athletic Hall of Fame will induct four new members this fall at the annual induction banquet on Friday, October 17 at the Clarion Hotel and Conference Center in Shepherdstown. Golfer **DAVID BRADSHAW '06** and **TIM READY '00** (football) join three-sport athlete **CHERYL ROBERTS '80** (women's basketball, softball, and women's tennis) and **CHRIS STAMBAUGH '95** and **'07 M.A.** (men's tennis) as the 30th class to be inducted. The "fabulous four" bring the total number of inductees in the Shepherd Athletic Hall of Fame to 140.

The quartet will also be honored at the Shepherd-West Virginia State football game on Saturday, October 17 as part of Hall of Fame Weekend festivities.

David Bradshaw '06

Bradshaw, of Encinitas, California, was a four-year standout on the men's golf team from 2002-2005. He was a three-time All-WVIAC choice and garnered WVIAC Player of the Year honors after gaining medalist honors at the conference tournament in 2003. He captured his first West Virginia Open title while attending Shepherd in 2004, and his seven West Virginia Open victories rank second only to golf legend Sam Snead's 17 wins. Bradshaw later turned professional and currently competes on the Canadian PGA tour. He won the Great Waterway Classic and garnered medalist honors at the 2014 Canadian Tour qualifying school.

Tim Ready '00

Ready, of Poolesville, Maryland, was a four-year standout tight end on the football team from 1995-1998. Ready played on a pair of WVIAC champion teams and was a member of the first Shepherd team to win an NCAA II postseason game. He was a two-time All-WVIAC choice and gained first team honors in 1998. Shepherd's all-time leading receiving tight end, Ready finished his career ranked tied for second in touchdown receptions (16), third in receptions (109), and fifth in receiving yards (1,523). He has coached football at both the collegiate and high school levels.

Cheryl Roberts '80

Roberts, of Shepherdstown, participated in women's basketball, softball, and women's tennis for the Rams. Roberts was a top player on both the basketball and softball teams. She graduated with honors and later gained the distinction of becoming the first woman to be hired as a full-time women's assistant for a men's collegiate basketball team when she was hired by the University of the District of Columbia. In her first season as an assistant, UDC captured the 1982 NCAA II title. Roberts later went on to become a successful community leader and high school coach.

Chris Stambaugh '95 and '07 M.A.

Stambaugh, of Como, North Carolina, was a standout as a player and a coach in tennis at Shepherd. He competed on the men's tennis team from 1988-1990. He helped lead the Rams to the 1988 WVIAC title as he captured the number five singles crown and teamed with **FERRAN MACIPE '91** for the number two doubles title. He later served as head coach for the Shepherd men's and

women's tennis teams from 1997-2008. He recorded a 301-145 (.675) overall mark. Stambaugh was a four-time WVIAC Coach of the Year and guided Shepherd to five conference titles (four men's, one women's) and three NCAA II regional appearances (two men's, one women's). Stambaugh currently coaches the men's and women's tennis teams at Chowan where he has won two conference titles, three division crowns, and three Coach of the Year accolades.

The Athletic Hall of Fame banquet will begin with a social hour at 6 p.m. followed by the dinner and induction ceremony at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$35 and are available for purchase through University Advancement by calling 304-876-5527 or 304-876-5524. ♣ *Chip Ransom*

Hoekstra named interim volleyball coach

Alex Hoekstra has been named interim head volleyball coach. Hoekstra, who served as an assistant for the Rams last season, came to Shepherd after a three-year stint as the assistant volleyball coach at Western New Mexico University. At Western New Mexico, Hoekstra's responsibilities included opponent scouting, skill development, recruiting coordination, and strength and conditioning. Under his guidance, the Mustangs reached a 23-7 record in 2013 which was good enough for a NCAA National Tournament berth.

Hoekstra was also the head coach of one of the nation's best club teams. Elevation 18's out of Mason, Ohio, won three out of their five tournaments and placed fourth in Open at MEQ. Hoekstra first started coaching boys volleyball in 2006 for the Cincinnati Attack. The Attack teams he coached all qualified for USA Open Nationals.

Prior to coaching at Western New Mexico, Hoekstra was a standout player at the University of Mount Olive. As the team's setter and floor captain, Hoekstra ended the 2010 season third in Division I statistics in assists, second in the nation in team hitting percentage, and was honored with the team's MVP award. The Trojans were one of the original teams that pioneered the Conference Carolina's men's volleyball league. The 2010 Mount Olive team won the first ever Conference Carolina Men's Volleyball Championship.

As an assistant, Hoekstra helped lead the Rams to an 18-13 overall mark with a 10-6 record in MEC play to finish third in the conference standings in 2014. The Rams advanced to the MEC Tournament Semifinals. ♣ *Chip Ransom*

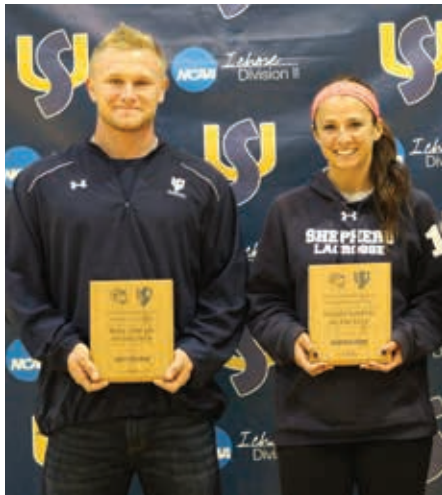


M.B.A. celebrates 10th year

The M.B.A. program will be celebrating its 10th anniversary with an alumni reception on Wednesday, October 28 as part of an issues forum to be held in Martinsburg. For more information, contact Dr. Chip Zimmer, M.B.A. program director, at wzimmer@shepherd.edu.

Athletics award winners for 2014-2015 academic year honored

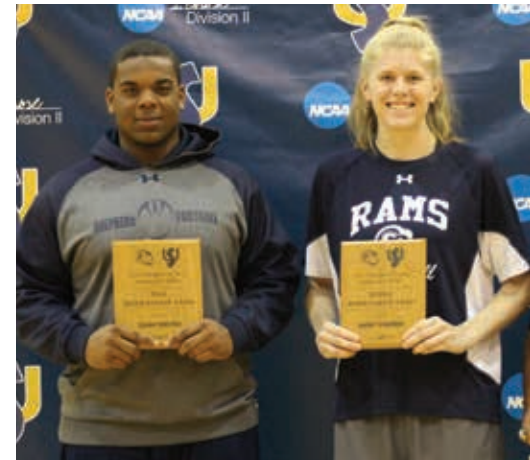
Photos this page by Chip Ransom



Senior outfielder Matt Wilson of the baseball team was named Male Athlete of the Year, while senior attacker Georgia Karr of the women's lacrosse team took Female Athlete of the Year honors during the spring awards presentation.



Senior Steven Lesko of the men's tennis team was named the male MEC Senior Scholar-Athlete, while lacrosse's Georgia Karr garnered female MEC Senior Scholar-Athlete accolades.



Senior offensive lineman Isaiah Shelton of the football team gained Male Senior Athlete of the Year honors and while senior center Gabby Flinchum of the women's basketball team gained Female Senior Athlete of the Year honors.



Head women's basketball coach Jenna Eckleberry (center), who led the Rams to a 22-10 overall mark and a share of the MEC title, earned Coach of the Year honors. She also guided the Rams to their second NCAA II regional appearance where the Rams upset 11th-ranked Indiana (Pa.) in first round action. Eckleberry directed a remarkable turnaround for a team that won just four games a season ago. She is shown with Melanie Ford, assistant athletic director, and B.J. Pumroy, athletic director.



Longtime trainer Gayle Conner '75 (r) and President Suzanne Shipley were the co-recipients of the Ram Award, which exemplifies the ideals of NCAA Division II. They are pictured with B.J. Pumroy, athletic director.

Right: Junior outside hitter Taylor Allen of the volleyball team was selected as the inaugural recipient of the Mary Jane Shipley Scholarship. The scholarship, named in honor of President Suzanne Shipley's mother, will be an annually funded scholarship that supports female student-athletes at Shepherd. Allen is pictured with President Shipley.

Other winners included the men's tennis team and the women's basketball team which earned the awards as the male and female teams with the top grade point average. The Rams Cup award, selected by the Student Athlete Advisory Committee, was presented to the women's lacrosse team.

Fall 2015



Athletics

Spring sports round-up

Baseball

The baseball team won its second consecutive Mountain East Conference regular season title with a 39-12 overall mark with a 35-7 record in conference play. Shepherd's 39 overall wins and 35 conference victories tie the program's single season marks. Shepherd also established a new mark with a 20-game win streak during the season.

Nine members of the baseball team were named to the 2015 All-MEC Baseball Team. Senior outfielder Matt Wilson, of Baltimore, Maryland; senior catcher Spencer Wolfe, of Huntingtown, Maryland; junior pitcher Sam Crater, of Dillsburg, Pennsylvania; sophomore outfielder Jonathan Sarty, of Purcellville, Virginia; and redshirt-freshman designated hitter Daniel Heleine, of Hedgessville, were first team selections. Junior shortstop Tre Porter, of Stephens City, Virginia; sophomore outfielder Jacob Carney, of Stephens City, Virginia; and senior pitcher Brian Martin, of Westminster, Maryland, were named to the second team, while senior pitcher Bryan DiRosario, of Alexandria, Virginia, gained honorable mention honors. Wilson was named MEC Player of the Year, while Crater gained MEC Pitcher of the Year honors.

Wilson led the Rams with a .442 batting average with 52 RBI

and a team-best 65 runs scored. He had doubles, three triples, and 10 home runs on the year. He topped the team in hit-by-pitch (27) and total bases (127). He led NCAA II in hit-by-pitch (27), hit-by-pitch per game (0.59) and ranked second in on-base percentage (.550). He was 8-of-10 in stolen bases.

Crater led the Rams with an 11-3 mark with a team-best 1.71 ERA. He fanned 86 and walked 25 in 84 innings. He had a team-best five complete games on the year.

Wolfe had a .351 batting average with a team-best 66 RBI and 50 runs scored. He had 17 doubles, a triple, and 12 home runs.

Sarty had a .420 batting average with 48 RBI and 50 runs scored. He had 18 doubles, a triple, and nine home runs. Sarty topped the Rams with 16 stolen bases.

Heleine had a .298 batting average with 35 RBI and 22 runs scored. He had nine doubles and six home runs.

Porter had a .315 batting average with 35 RBI and 36 runs scored. He had nine doubles, two triples, and five round-trippers. He was 13-of-17 in stolen bases.

Carney had a .436 batting average with 33 RBI and 60 runs scored. His 82 hits led the team. He added eight doubles, two triples, and one home run.

Martin posted a 3-2 mark with a team-best five saves and a 2.94 ERA. He fanned 30 and walked eight in 33.2 innings. Martin led the Rams with 20 appearances.

DiRosario had a 9-1 record with 1.90 ERA. He fanned 48 and walked 22 in 66.1 innings.

Carney earns Capital One Academic All-American honors

Sophomore outfielder Jacob Carney, of Stephens City, Virginia, was named to the 2015 Capital One Academic All-America® team. The team is selected by the College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA).

Carney, a third team selection, boasts a 3.65 grade point average as a biology major. He had a .436 batting average with a team-best 82 hits. His 60 runs scored and 26 walks were second on the team. Carney added eight doubles, two triples, and a home run on the year. He was 8-of-11 in stolen bases.

The Capital One Division II Academic All-America® program is financially supported by the NCAA Division II national governance structure to assist CoSIDA with handling the awards fulfillment aspects for the 2014-15 Division II Academic All-America® teams program.

Baseball Academic All-Americans

1997 – Keith Koenig '97 (Second Team)

1997 – Ty Hart '01 (Third Team)

2010 – Brian Collins '11 (Third Team)

2013 – Chad Murphy '14 (Second Team)

2014 – Michael Lott '12 and '14 M.B.A. (First Team)

2015 – Jacob Carney (Third Team)

Softball

The softball team finished with a 20-23 overall record with an 11-15 mark in conference play. The Rams were a win away from advancing to the championship round at the MEC Tournament. Senior third baseman Savannah Snyder, of Elkton, Maryland, and freshman second baseman Courtney Clemons, of Thurmont, Maryland, were selected to the 2015 All-MEC Softball Team. Snyder and Clemons were named first team honorees.

Snyder led the Rams with a .409 batting average. She also paced the team in hits (56) and doubles (13), sacrifice flies (7), and slugging percentage (.569). She added three home runs, 32 runs batted in, and 30 runs scored. Snyder also garnered Second Team National Fastpitch Coaches Association All-Atlantic Region honors.

Clemons was second on the team with a .406 batting average. She topped the team in runs scored (34), stolen bases (6), and led the Shepherd regulars with a .451 on-base percentage. Her 67 total bases were third on the team. Clemons added 19 runs batted in, six doubles, two triples, and a home run. She earned Second Team Daktronics, Inc./Division II CCA All-Atlantic Region/District 2 accolades.

Men's Tennis

The men's tennis team recorded an 8-15 overall mark with a 3-4 record in conference play.

Senior Steven Lesko, of Mt. Airy, Maryland, and sophomore Grant Davis, of Harpers Ferry, were named to the All-MEC Team. Both Lesko and Davis were second team selections.



The women's lacrosse team earned both the regular season and tournament titles in the inaugural season of Mountain East Conference play.

Women's Lacrosse

The women's lacrosse team gained both the regular season and tournament titles in the inaugural season of Mountain East Conference play. Shepherd recorded a 12-5 overall mark with a 5-0 record in conference play. The Rams downed UVa-Wise (17-2) and West Virginia Wesleyan (20-3) to win the MEC Tournament.

Eight members of the women's lacrosse team were named to the inaugural 2015 All-Mountain East Conference Women's Lacrosse Team. Senior defender Alyx Albano, of Wayne, New Jersey, senior attacker Georgia Karr, of Eldersburg, Maryland, and junior midfielder Erin Phelan, of Thurmont, Maryland, were first team selections. Additionally, Albano was named MEC Defensive Player of the Year. Senior attacker Kelsey Eagan, of Baltimore, Maryland, junior defender Kelsey Phelan, of Thurmont, Maryland, and junior goalkeeper Savannah Shores, of Trappe, Maryland, were second team selections, while junior attacker Hunter Morris, of Severna Park, Maryland, and freshman defender Sydney Bosmans, of Chesapeake Beach, Maryland, earned honorable mention accolades.

Albano topped the Rams and the MEC with 41 caused turnovers. She added 44 ground balls and 10 draw controls. She gained MEC Defensive Player of the Week honors for April 7 and was named to the MEC All-Tournament team.

Karr had 38 goals and a team-best 32 assists for 70 points. She added 18 ground balls, 13 draw controls, and eight caused turnovers. She was named MEC Offensive Player of the Week for March 24 and was chosen to the MEC All-Tournament team.

Erin Phelan led the Rams with 55 goals and 16 assists for a team-best 71 points. She added a team-best 54 draw controls, 27 ground balls, and 11 caused turnovers. She was a two-time MEC Offensive Player of the Week selection and gained MEC Tournament MVP honors.

Eagan had 24 goals and nine assists for 32 points. She added 24 ground balls, 14 draw controls, and three caused turnovers. She was named MEC Offensive Player of the Week for April 7.

Kelsey Phelan had 28 ground balls, 20 caused turnovers, and

11 draw controls. She helped anchor a Shepherd defense that had the second lowest goals-against-average in the league.

Shores had a 9.98 goals-against-average with 102 saves on the season. She was a three-time MEC Defensive Player of the Week choice.

Morris had 28 goals and nine assists for 37 points. She added 21 ground balls, 11 draw controls, and eight caused turnovers. She was named to the MEC All-Tournament team.

Bosmans was a key component for the Shepherd defense with 12 ground balls, nine caused turnovers, and three draw controls. She scored a goal in her only shot attempt. ➔ *Chip Ransom*

Baseball players Wilson, Crater gain All-American honors

Senior outfielder Matt Wilson, of Baltimore, Maryland, and junior pitcher Sam Crater, of Dillsburg, Pennsylvania, were named to the 2015 Daktronics and National Collegiate Baseball Writers (NCBWA) NCAA Division II All-America Teams. Wilson was a second team selection on both squads, while Crater gained honorable mention honors from both organizations.

Wilson led the Rams with a .442 batting average with 52 RBI and a team-best 65 runs scored. He had doubles, three triples, and 10 home runs on the year. He topped the team in hit-by-pitch (27) and total bases (127). He led NCAA II in hit-by-pitch (27), hit-by-pitch per game (0.53) and ranked second in on-base percentage (.550). He was 8-of-10 in stolen bases.

Crater led the Rams with an 11-3 mark with a team-best 1.71 ERA. He fanned 86 and walked 25 in 84 innings. He had a team-best five complete games on the year.

Accountant-author Files '06 uses marketing skills to sell her books

The last thing adjunct accounting professor MICHELLE FRAVEL FILES '06 and '13 M.B.A. ever thought she would become is a novelist.

“If you would have told me 10 years ago that I would write a book, I would have laughed in your face,” Michelle said. “I hated English in school. I was always a numbers girl.”

This “numbers girl” is an accounting and business administration graduate who came back to Shepherd to earn her M.B.A. She works seasonally as a certified public accountant with Smith Elliott Kerns & Company, LLC, and teaches undergraduate and graduate accounting classes at Shepherd’s main campus and the Martinsburg Center. But, in her spare time, Michelle writes new adult paranormal romance novels and uses what she learned in business school to market her work.

During the annual Chocolate Festival and Book Faire in Martinsburg in April, Michelle had a table set up in a downtown photography business. Unlike many of the other authors

it gives customers a taste of her writing style, and they often end up buying the book.

“I’m using branding to get myself out there because right now I am just a nobody,” she said. “No one knows who I am. To build a readership is a difficult thing, especially in the book industry because there are so many books out there.”

Michelle’s life seemed to be on a normal trajectory after she graduated from Shepherd. She found time to read and began interacting with writers through the web and social media. She pursued an accounting career and married CHRISTOPHER MICHAEL FILES '06 in 2011, the year she started writing her first book.

“I just sat down one day and started writing,” she said. “It was amazing for me to tap back into that creative side because I had been at my academic side for so long I’d forgotten how much I love my creative side. Obviously, I knew if I wanted to do anything serious with it, I would need some help because I hated English class.”

But a personal tragedy struck in 2013. She was working full time, had published *Soul Survivor*, had graduated in May with her M.B.A., and was in her first semester of teaching when her husband died at age 29 in a motorcycle accident. Michelle said dealing with the resulting personal issues set her writing back, so she is currently finishing the sequel to *Soul Survivor*. In addition, Michelle is writing a series of three more adult, overlapping stories based on a fictionalized version of Shepherdstown tentatively titled *The Ramshead University Tales*. She plans to publish all four books by the end of this year.

Michelle said teaching and writing are two things she enjoys, and she hopes to continue pursuing both for a long time.

“For the rest of my life if I could write books and teach, that would be fabulous,” she said. “As for my writing career, I don’t expect to make money. I don’t expect to be a *New York Times* best seller. I don’t expect any of that. If I can just continue to write little stories that make my heart happy and continue to touch lives, that’s what really matters to me.” — *Cecelia Mason*



Cecelia Mason

Michelle Fravel Files '06 and '13 M.B.A.

who participated, she loaded her table with freebies like small, square bottles of hand sanitizer, purse-size tissues, and pens—all emblazoned with her logo.

“Being an author is really owning your own business, so I understand the financial aspects from that end,” she said. “Marketing, branding, and finding creative, innovative ways to get people to come to your table are key when you are a new author. I’ve used a lot of what I picked up at Shepherd.”

Michelle hired an artist to create the logo. She works with an editor and found another author willing to serve as her mentor. She also hires eBook formatters and beta readers, who look for mistakes and give her feedback. She uses websites like Amazon, Smashwords, iBooks, and Barnes & Noble to distribute her books.

Michelle said one of the smartest giveaways she offers is a small printed chapter from her first book, *Soul Survivor*, because



Cecelia Mason

A sampling of marketing materials alumna Michelle Files created to sell her books is shown above. She said she used many of the skills she learned studying business to help with branding efforts.

Cancer researcher Dr. Jim Cherry '96 gives address to CCC grads

In May, DR. JAMES M. "JIM" CHERRY '96 gave the commencement address at Carroll Community College in Westminster, Maryland, highlighting how setbacks he experienced during his education ultimately led to his current successful career in cancer research.

Jim, scientific program director at the Office of Scientific Operations at the National Cancer Institute, attended Shepherd on an academic-linked football scholarship, earning a B.S. in biology. In the address, he described how he changed his major from business to biology after Dr. Burt Lidgerding, associate professor emeritus of biology, convinced him to switch majors.

Jim, who suffered a knee injury while playing football that led to surgery, was taking a general biology class from Lidgerding during his semester of recovery.

"By the end of the semester he (Lidgerding) asked me to meet him in his office after class. He was pretty direct with me, saying 'JC, I know you are on a football scholarship and that is great, but you need to get an education—one you are going to be passionate about—and I see that with you and biology,'" Jim said in the speech. "In the next sentence he said 'the NFL is not calling you, so you need to think about what you want to do once your football career is done here.'"

Jim told the Carroll Community College students he initially dreamed of going to medical school, but twice had a less-than-stellar performance on the Medical College Admissions Test.

"Let's be honest, I am not going to pretend that failure is fun," he said. "Looking back at those failures, I realize that if I had really succeeded in getting into medical school, I would have not found the determination and drive to succeed in the one arena where I truly belong—the cancer research community."

After graduating from Shepherd, Jim went on to earn an M.A. in molecular biology and biotechnology from Johns Hopkins University and a Ph.D. from Catholic University of America and the National Institutes of Health. His doctoral thesis focused on molecular changes in ovarian tumor progression and identified

biomarkers that could be useful in early diagnoses of the disease.

He pointed out in his commencement speech that the series of failures he suffered ultimately led to his success. "I was also



Photo courtesy James M. Cherry

Dr. James M. "Jim" Cherry '96

set free. My greatest fear came true—I had failed, and I was still alive. And better yet, I had a master's degree from one of the prominent universities in America and an opportunity to do my doctorate with the Catholic University of America through the National Cancer Institute," he said. "See, you will all fail at some point in your life. It is inevitable, just accept it. You will lose, you will embarrass yourself, and you will suck at something, there is no doubt about it. It is impossible to live without failure unless you have lived so cautiously that you might as well not lived at all, in which case you fail by default."

—Cecelia Mason

Alumni named to Top 25 list

In the past few of issues, *Around the Panhandle* magazine has been naming the Eastern Panhandle's Top 25 Most Influential People.

On that list were quite a few Shepherd alumni. Here are those who achieved the title of one of the Eastern Panhandle's Most Influential People:

1. Ken Lowe '71
2. Manny P. Arvon '74
7. Clarence E. Martin III '93 (*honorary doctorate*)
12. Steven Roach '80
20. Teresa McCabe '79
22. Tiffany Lawrence '04
23. Rick Wachtel '68
25. Susan Snowden '82

Delaware Alumni Chapter holds annual meeting

Dr. Shari Payne, vice president for enrollment management, was the guest speaker at the annual meeting of the Delaware Alumni Chapter in April. She presented news about Shepherd and answered questions.

At the meeting, RITA CANNON HOVERMALE '79, SUSAN PAPOLA BREEDING '72, and CHRISTINE ERICKSON HENDERSON '69, who head up the Exam Care Packages to Delaware students project, entrusted the care packages to Payne who took them back to Shepherd for distribution to Delaware students. Packed by attendees of the event, the packages included a personalized note from the alum. Rita and Susan also sponsor a send-off party for new and returning students at the Hovermale residence every year prior to move-in day.

RON BREEDING '70 spoke of his experiences representing Shepherd at the New Castle County College Fair. Upcoming chapter events include shorebird game, September 23; golf outing, September 26; college fairs in Kent and Sussex in October; and Delaware Day at Shepherd University, November 13. ➔

Alumni

Class Notes

'58 JOYCE L. OTT, of Hagerstown, Maryland, was awarded the Hagerstown Community College Alumni Association's Outstanding Alumna Award. Joyce graduated from HCC in 1956 and then attended Shepherd where she studied education. She taught at Northern Middle School in Washington County as well as worked many years in the family business, Ott's Horticulture. She was honored with the award due to her continued dedication to the HCC Alumni Association through her participation in the local Mummers Parade and by helping establish the HJC/HCC Arts Festival. She also chaired the HCC Alumni Association's amphitheater building committee, as well as serving on the alumni board of directors as vice president and secretary.

'61 RONALD W. TAYLOR was honored with the Hagerstown Community College Alumni Association Outstanding Alumnus Award. Ronald graduated from HCC in 1959 and earned his bachelor's in business administration from Shepherd. He attended Yale University, earning his master's in 1978. After serving in the U.S. Air Force Reserves for 39 years, he was an employee and director of CSX Railroad Corp. He serves as the HCC amphitheater building committee vice president and was instrumental in initiating the alumni association's annual Red, White, and Blue Summer Concert Series, which is now in its 11th year. Ronald has served 22 years on the HCC Alumni Flower and Garden Show committee and recruits 80-100 volunteers annually for the event.

'76 AUSTIN J. SLATER, JR., of La Plata, Maryland, president and CEO of Southern Maryland Electric Cooperative, was appointed to the board of directors of the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond, Baltimore Branch. He serves as a member of the board of the University of Maryland Charles Regional Medical Center.

'81 KEN ILGENFRITZ retired from the Central Intelligence Agency in 2014 after a 32-year career that included

multiple tours in three different war zones. Ken's career included long-term assignments in Europe, Central Europe, the Middle East, and Central Asia. Having lived in Potomac Falls, Virginia, for the past 22 years, he and his family are designing a new home to be built in Williamsburg, Virginia, where they plan to relocate in 2016. Since retirement from the federal government, Ken has been employed by Jacobs Engineering.

'84 VAN STEMPEL won the World Golf Amateur Tour U.S. National Championship in Florida at Mission Inn Resort in September 2014.



Van Stemple '84 (r.)

Winning this title earned Van the number one player spot on the five-person Team USA that went on to play in the 20th World Golf Amateur Championship in Durban, South Africa, in November 2014. The team finished in third place—best ever for Team USA—and Van finished fourth individually. Van was a member of the Shepherd golf team for three years (1982-1984) and is now working as chief systems engineer for Leidos Corporation at Fort Detrick, Maryland.

'88 DRAKE D. DODSON was appointed vice president of information technology for the combined technology functions of the First Service Networks and FM Facility Management companies. He also earned his second degree black belt in Tae Kwon Do and continues to referee, teach, and train with his two daughters, Elizabeth, 15, (black belt) and Jessica, 12, (red belt).

JOHN WOLFF '88 was honored with the Chairman's Award for Outstanding Board Member at the inaugural Chairman's Breakfast for the Community Foundation for Northern Virginia May 7. This year's breakfast was held at the Gannett Building in Tysons Corner. During his time at Shepherd, he was a member of the Lambda Chi Alpha fraternity and majored in hospitality management and services. He is a member of the McMurrin Society and a former Alumni Association board member.

John is the CEO and managing director for Capital Fiduciary Advisors and is the co-creator, along with his wife LISA WOLFF '87, of the JOHN AND LISA WOLFF SCHOLARSHIP, RURAL FINANCIAL PLANNING PROJECT, which is designated for students at Shepherd who are majoring in business administration with a concentration in financial planning.

'89 LAURA C. BUTLER was awarded the HOLT Medallion Award of Merit for First Novel by the Virginia Romance Writers. Her novel, *The Price of a Pearl*, was honored in the category Best First Novel. The novel is a historic romance set in England and uses the conflict of the American Revolution and the Age of Enlightenment as a backdrop.

The HOLT Medallion contest is sponsored by the Virginia Romance Writers, a



Laura Butler '89

state chapter for Romance Writers of America, and is named for VRW's first elected president, Cynthia Holt. It is also an acronym for Honoring Outstanding Literary Talent.

The competition is open to writers internationally whose work is published in the prior year and contains elements of romance. Laura's website www.lauraswriting.com features short fiction and updates on her latest projects. *The Price of a Pearl* is available in e-book and paperback form Amazon.

'92 RANDY THOMPSON, CEO of Thompson Gas and Electric Services, Inc., has a new venture at Big Cork Vineyards. The winery, which has been growing grapes for the last four years on Randy's 24-acre family farm, now has a new tasting room to showcase the wines. The vineyard, located at 4236 Main Street, Rohrsersville, Maryland, sits on a picturesque hilltop that offers unparalleled views of the Pleasant Valley. Randy, who credits Shepherd for his entrepreneurial spirit, has assembled a team to help him produce award-winning wine and offer an exceptional farm-to-table food experience in a well-appointed tasting room. For more information, call 301-302-8032 or visit the website at www.bigcorkvineyards.com.



Cecelia Mason

Members of the Class of 1965 were inducted into the Emeritus Club at the annual luncheon held on May 7 in the Student Center. More than 60 alumni and their guests attended the event. Members of the Class of 1965 in attendance were, front row, l. to r., Mary-Jane Jones Knode, Millersville, Maryland; Carolyn Griffin Cump, Hagerstown, Maryland; Lorraine Loudenslager Eccard, Boonsboro, Maryland; Isabel Druschel Danley, Fairfax Station, Virginia; and Helen Fisher Whitmer, Indiana, Pennsylvania; back row, Dr. Suzanne Shipley, Shepherd University president; H. Max Derr Jr., Shepherdstown; Stanley Rote, Forest Hill, Maryland; Marsha Clark Plybon, Parkersburg; and Patricia Hine and William Hine, Blue Ridge Summit, Pennsylvania.

degree. He has also worked on international development issues in Africa and Central and South America.

'93 KARIN HAMMANN DUNN is the operations manager for Habitat for Humanity of the Eastern Panhandle. She works with the president and CEO, board of directors, and staff to identify key operational processes and workflows, foster teamwork, empower employees, optimize performance, and manage process enhancement. She oversees all building projects for HFHEP, as



Karin Hammann
Dunn '93

well as helps to build partnerships and relationships in support of the Habitat mission. Karin and husband LARRY DUNN '97 reside in Martinsburg.

'94 TERRI BURHANS has been selected as the new executive director of CraftWorks in Jefferson County. She was a community and economic development professional with the City of Wilmington, North Carolina, and served as executive director for the Cape Fear Community Land Trust.

'10 PAUL PFAU, of Myersville, Maryland, was chosen to compete during Season 8 of the NBC show *The Voice* after wowing judges during the blind auditions. He chose Pharrell Williams as his coach and made it through the second round of competition. Paul came back to Shepherd in April for a performance at the Frank Center. ♣



Randy Thompson '92

THOMAS MINNEY '92 has been named The Nature Conservancy's West Virginia state director. He was the director of the Conservancy's Central Appalachians program. Thomas helped initiate multistate cooperative conservation programs and was the conservation program director for the conservancy's West Virginia Chapter, working with private landowners, industry representatives, and state and federal researchers and scientists. Some of the projects he has been part of include the restoration of the region's high-elevation red spruce forest and the Beury Mountain Wildlife Management Area in the New River Gorge. He worked in Japan after graduation, and then moved to England where he completed a master's

Obituaries

THOMAS GUY REYNOLDS, JR. '33, of Martinsburg, died January 21, 2015. He began his career teaching in Berkeley County Schools for 18 years before running his own television and radio repair business, serving as an electro-mechanical designer for Thieblot Aircraft, and working as an engineer at Corning Glass Works for 17 years. He organized the Martinsburg Composite Squadron of the Civil Air Patrol, for which he was honored with the Congressional Gold Medal award at the U.S. Capitol in December 2014. This is held to recognize the Civil Air Patrol volunteers who served during World War II and is the highest civilian honor the U.S. Congress bestows. He is survived by his son, **JOHN THOMAS REYNOLDS** '64.

GEORGIANA STAGGS YOST '38, of Keyser, died November 15, 2013. She retired from teaching after 38 years at Mineral County Primary School.

ELIZABETH MAY MILLARD REED '41, of Elkins, died March 25, 2015. She earned a master of arts degree from Columbia University Teacher's College and was an educator for 39 years, teaching mathematics and computer science in New York and West Virginia. She also served as director of admissions at Davis & Elkins College. She was nominated for West Virginia Teacher of the Year and appeared in various Who's Who publications.

DR. CECIL DEGROTTE EBY, JR. '50, died February 15, 2015. He earned an M.A. from Northwestern University and a Ph.D. from the University of Pennsylvania. He served in the 16th Fleet of the United States Navy from 1945-1946. He began his academic career as an assistant professor of English at James Madison University, eventually moving to the University of Michigan where he retired as a professor of English after a 30-year career there. He wrote nine books on topics including the Civil War, Spain's Civil War, the conflict between the U.S. and the Native Americans, and World Wars I and II. A Jefferson County native, he was active with the Jefferson County Historical Society.

AUDREY M. COSNER SAVILLE '56, of Romney, died December 27, 2013. At Shepherd she was a member of Sigma Sigma Sigma sorority. She retired in 1984 from teaching after a 38-year career in Hampshire County. She was also a member of Hampshire County Farm Bureau, Hernando County, Florida, Farm Bureau, and Hampshire County Retired Teachers Association.

MARY MAXWELL RIDER KLINE '56, of Charles Town, died May 10, 2015. She was a member of the Alpha Sigma Tau sorority and received a degree in elementary education. She taught for many years in several school systems, including Frederick County and Spotsylvania County, Virginia, and Jefferson County, where she finished her career, retiring in 1988. She was a founding board member of the Jefferson Center for the education and training of exceptional needs children and adults. Survivors include her husband of 65 years, **CHARLES WILLIAM "BILL" KLINE** '49, and daughters **MARY RIDER KLINE** '81 and **SARAH ELIZABETH ROGERS** '84.

ANN LINDSAY SCHRADER '57, of Hollywood, Maryland, died August 11, 2014. A business administration major, she became a substitute teacher at St. Mary's County Public Schools and a daycare provider. She was a member of the DAR, Alpha Sigma Tau, and of local home-makers' clubs.

JOHN V. HUGHES, JR. '58, of Palm Bay, Florida, died January 9, 2015. After graduating from Shepherd with a degree in political science, he began a 35-year career with Exxon USA, starting out in Maryland before moving to Memphis, Tennessee, to finish his career with the company as director of operations. After retirement, he and his wife, **TEMPLE ANN SCAFATI HUGHES** '57, moved to Palm Bay. John also served in the U.S. Navy during the Korean Conflict and was a member of American Legion Post 117. He was a dedicated employee during his career and an avid golfer, as well an enthusiastic football fan.

G. NORRIS RATH '61, of Hagerstown, Maryland, died May 10, 2015. He was a member of Tau Kappa Epsilon and Delta

Sigma Pi fraternities. After graduate study at West Virginia University, he returned to Shepherd to teach business administration for 38 years until his retirement in 2001. He also served as registrar.

JAMES H. SHRADER, SR. '64, of Richboro, Pennsylvania, died January 27, 2015. He studied history at Shepherd and also attended West Virginia University to study chemistry and metallurgy. He was a devoted husband to his wife Maureen and had a successful career in chemistry, owning his own company in Richboro, Chemistry Ventures. He was a model train enthusiast and a member of the Abington Lines Railroad Club in Ivyland.

DENNY P. PENTONY '66, of Martinsburg, died May 16, 2015. After his graduation from Shepherd, he served in the U.S. Army for two years before working for the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources for 32 years. He is survived by his wife **AKIKO PENTONY** '81.

CRAIG S. POISAL '68, of Paragould, Arkansas, but originally of Martinsburg, died January 25, 2015. He earned a master's degree from Shippensburg University and was an educator for more than 44 years, teaching math, chemistry, and physics at Martinsburg High School and Boonsboro, Maryland, High School.

PAT D. HEAGY KENNEDY '68, of Westminster, Maryland, died February 4, 2015. She was a home economics teacher, and then served as an extension agent at the Carroll County, Maryland, Cooperative Extension Service. She served as a fundraiser for the United Way, the American Cancer Society, and the Human Services Program of Carroll County. She returned to teaching at Century High School where she managed the preschool. She retired from teaching in 2008.

MARY BARKER DIEHL '85, of Charles Town, died January 22, 2015. She was a sorority sister of Mega Chi Alpha and a cheerleader at Shepherd. An office manager with Wee Disciples Christian Academy, as well as a member of the Piedmont Garden Club and Jefferson Memorial Park Swim Team, she is survived by her husband **THOMAS M. DIEHL** '86.

KEVIN L. ENNS '89, died May 17, 2015. He earned a master's degree from the University of Maryland. He was employed by the CIA and did extensive work in the ministry. He was a founding member and elder of Connections Community Church in Inwood.

WENDY D. REDICK MILLS-MYERS '89, of Waynesboro, Pennsylvania, died May 18, 2015. She was a member of Delta Zeta sorority and graduated summa cum laude with a degree in social welfare. She earned a master's degree from the University of Maryland in 1991. She was employed by Washington County, Maryland, Hospital and Brooklane Center before joining a behavioral health group and accepting a professorship at California University of Pennsylvania.

CRAIG B. GIFFIN '95, of Charleston, died May 12, 2015. A McMurrin Scholar, he was involved in the Student Government Association, Christian Student Union, and *The Picket*. He attended WVU Law School and was a practicing lawyer and the director of the paralegal studies program at Bridge Valley Community and Technical College. He was a ballroom dancer and founder of West Virginia Dance, Inc.

JOHN JAMES "JAMIE" DONALDSON '00, of Cape Coral, Florida, died April 17, 2015 due to complications after kidney transplant surgery for his father, who fully recovered from the procedure and is alive today because of his son's selflessness. He earned a master of fine arts degree at Vermont College of Fine Art and operated art galleries and tattoo studios in Leesburg, Virginia, and Cape Coral and was a professional painter, tattoo artist, photographer, and graphic designer.

ALEXANDER G. KEMNITZER '10, of Shepherdstown, died February 19, 2015. He was employed with H&R Block in Charles Town. He was involved in the American Conservation Film Festival and served on the board of directors of Habitat for Humanity. ♣



Shepherd University HOMECOMING

Friday-Saturday • September 25-26

2015

25
SEPT.

24th Annual Alumni Association Golf Tournament

10 a.m. | The Club at Cress Creek

For more information on registration or sponsorships, please contact the Office of Alumni Affairs at alumni@shepherd.edu or 304-876-5524.

Chalk Talk

Noon | Wellness Center

Get an insider's look at Shepherd athletics, \$10 includes lunch.

Founders Day Celebration

3 p.m. | McMurrin Hall

The parade will start at McMurrin Hall and end at the Butcher Center Plaza.

26
SEPT.

Alumni Breakfast

9 a.m. | Front lawn of McMurrin Hall

Join us for a complimentary breakfast and stay to watch the homecoming parade. Sponsored by the Shepherd University Alumni Association and the Shepherd University Foundation.

Bookstore Open

10 a.m. to 4 p.m. | Student Center

The Bookstore is pleased to offer SUAA sustaining members a 10 percent discount on regular-priced items when they present their membership card at the time of purchase. Visit online at www.shepherdbook.com.

Homecoming Parade

10:15 a.m. | German Street

Rams vs. Notre Dame College (Ohio)

Noon | Ram Stadium

SUAA members please note: only sustaining-level members will receive complimentary homecoming football game tickets. Sustaining members can pick up their tickets at the Office of Alumni Affairs, Monday-Wednesday, September 21-23 from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., at the golf tournament on Friday, September 25, or at the Alumni Breakfast on Saturday, September 26.

Introduction of the 2015 Homecoming Court

Halftime | Ram Stadium

Recognition of the 2015-2016 Outstanding Alumnus of the Year recipient Coach Wayne Wilson '81, and special recognition of the 60th anniversary of the 1955 undefeated football team.

Shepherd University Alumni Association

Homecoming Post-Game Party

4 to 8 p.m. | King Street in front of Town Hall (NEW LOCATION)

Enjoy music, concessions, and socializing with fellow Shepherd Rams. No admission fee. Must be 21 to drink. IDs will be checked at the gate. Rain or shine.

Alumni

Milestones



Justin Arner '09 and Clara McCrossin '09

CLARA MCCROSSIN '09 and JUSTIN ARNER '09 were engaged on August 9, 2014 at Chautauqua Lake, New York. They are to be married at Heinz Chapel in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, on August 1.



Tyler, Emily '10, and Avery Emerick

EMILY MCCOY EMERICK '10 and husband Tyler, a daughter, Avery Elizabeth, born August 28, 2014.

KATIE SWAYNE '12 and BRETT GORDON '13 were engaged March 11 outside of McMurrin Hall on Shepherd's campus. Katie is the fundraising coordinator for University Advancement at Shepherd, a job she began in March, and Brett works for Navy Federal Credit Union. The wedding is set for October 2016.



Brett Gordon '13 and Katie Swayne '12

KATHERINE CRAWFORD '13 and JASON LUTMAN '06 were married December 13, 2014 at Rosemont Manor in Berryville, Virginia. Katherine is a registered nurse at Berkeley Medical Center ICU, and Jason is a teacher with Loudoun County, Virginia, Public Schools.

Best friends since college, JACQUELYN MARTIN '91 and BRYAN SCHMELING '92 were married on August 2, 2014 in a small ceremony at their home in Shady Spring. Alumni participating included DANA PICKLES '92 and DARIN SIPE '90. Following the ceremony, friends including PENNY CARTER PICKLES '92 gathered for an evening cookout. Bryan proposed in June as he and Jackie relived many college memories with a drive to Harpers Ferry, stopping at a familiar gathering place along the river. He presented her with his TKE fraternity pin and got down on one knee. Jackie works for the IRS as a supervisory analyst, and Bryan works for ATF as a legal instruments examiner.



Jacquelyn Martin '91 and Bryan Schmeling '92



Robert '04, Brycen, Alicia '05, and Riley Riggelman

ROBERT '04 and ALICIA HALTERMAN '05 RIGGLEMAN, a daughter, Riley Ellen, born January 1 (the first baby of the New Year at Winchester, Virginia, Medical Center). She joins big brother, Brycen. The family resides in Inwood.

Foundation

A thank you to Scarborough Gala sponsors

The 14th annual Scarborough Society Gala took place on Friday, August 14, with a theme that invited guests into the magical world of enchantment and fantasy depicted in Erin Morgenstern's 2012 novel, *The Night Circus*. The event was once again held at the Bavarian Inn in Shepherdstown. Presenting sponsors for the event were BB&T Wealth Management, Jefferson Security Bank, Valley Proteins, Inc., and United Bank. Millers Electric Company, Inc./Professional Plumbing and Heating LLC sponsored the band, Souled Out. Program sponsors included JOHN WOLFF '88, Capital Fiduciary Advisors, and JERRY WILLIAMS '71, State Farm Insurance. Other theme sponsors included Bowles Rice Attorneys at Law; Skinner Law Firm; Smith Elliott Kearns & Co.; PriceRomaine, PLLC; Ours, Lawyer, Lewis & Co., PLLC; and McMorgan & Company. Special thanks to JEREMIAH LEITER '06 and '10 M.B.A., of Maryland Sound International, for the indoor sound system, and Reikos Studios for aerial performances before and after dinner. The Foundation gratefully acknowledges these generous sponsors.



Scarborough Society events announced

The Scarborough Society Art and Lecture Series announces its new season featuring diverse topics and speakers relevant to the academic and cultural community. All events are free and open to the public, and will take place in the Scarborough Library Reading Room with a reception to follow. For a full calendar of events, please visit the Foundation website at www.ShepherdUniversityFoundation.org.

- The Art Department will present its annual Faculty Art Show from September 8-22, with an opening night reception on Tuesday, September 8 from 4-6 p.m.

- On Thursday, October 22, at 7 p.m., alumnus MATTHEW HOLZMAN '11 will discuss his publishing debut, *Civil Warscapes: Antietam, Images from the 17th of September*. A traveling field companion for visitors to Antietam National Battlefield, the book is unique because all photographs in it were taken on September 17, 2014—the 152nd anniversary of the battle—allowing readers to experience the landscape as it appeared to the thousands of Union and Confederate soldiers.

- On Thursday, November 12, at 7 p.m., award-winning journalist and local author Ginny Fite will discuss and read from her published works, which include humor, poetry, and a recent collection of short stories titled *What Goes Around*. She will also read from her upcoming debut novel, *Folly*, a mystery/thriller set in Charles Town.

- On Thursday, April 7, 2016, at 7 p.m., alumna MICHELLE FRAVEL FILES '06 and '13 M.B.A. will discuss the path that led her to becoming a published author and how she used her accounting degree to market her new adult paranormal romance novel, *Soul Survivor*. Additionally, Michelle will offer a special preview of her latest series of stories based on a fictionalized version of Shepherdstown.



Gary Kable

This year the McMurrans Society welcomed new member Carole B. Griffith, seen here (second from right) with longtime members (l. to r.) Paul (Soupy) Hillyard '58, Jo Hillyard, and Dr. Dan Starliper '69. To see all members present at the 2015 event, visit www.ShepherdUniversityFoundation.org and click on Foundation Photos under News and Events.

McMurrans Society dinner held in April

The annual Joseph P. McMurrans Society dinner, hosted by President Suzanne Shipley and sponsored by the Shepherd University Foundation, was held April 25 in the atrium of Erma Ora Byrd Hall. Featuring a four-course dinner prepared by Chef Scott Anderson and Shepherd's catering team, the event brought together society members and their guests, as well as faculty and administrators, to honor those who have chosen to share their lifelong financial achievements with the university through estate and other planned gifts.

Dave Newlin '76 named director emeritus

The Foundation recently designated DAVID T. "DAVE" NEWLIN '76 as director emeritus, recognizing his years of service as a valued and loyal member of the Foundation's board of directors. Now retired, Dave spent 20 years in the insurance industry where he was vice president and partner/owner of The Insurance Center of Winchester, Inc. Additionally, he served Shepherd as the director of college relations and alumni affairs from 1980 through 1987 and was a co-founder of the Athletic Hall of Fame. Dave also organized Shepherd's first Phonathon and was named Outstanding Alumnus in 2003.

Dave's nomination for director emeritus was presented to the Foundation's board of directors during its December 2014 meeting and received unanimous agreement.

"There is no greater calling than helping others achieve a quality education and fulfill their life potential, and at the end of the day that is what the Foundation is all about," Dave said. "It makes me proud to have been a part of the Foundation's development and growth over the years, and it is rewarding to realize just how many students have been given a chance because others care."



David T. Newlin '76

Foundation

Women for Shepherd University 2015-2016 event schedule

Thursday, November 19, 6-8:30 p.m. ■ An Evening with Chef Brad Spates at the Historic McFarland House in Martinsburg will feature a cooking demonstration with the world-renowned executive chef. Spates has been featured on the *Rachel Ray Show*, *Fox Morning News*, and *Iron Chef*, where he won the national title in 2009. A holiday-themed dinner will be served with wine, and a cash bar will be provided. Cost of the event is \$30 per person. R.S.V.P.s are required by Wednesday, November 10 to mpeterso@shepherd.edu or 304-876-5021.

Saturday, April 16, 2016, 2-4 p.m. ■ A Backyard Tea Party and Gardening Demonstration at the Entler Hotel, Shepherdstown, will feature master gardener Carol Anderson who will present a demonstration of herbs and their historic usage in beverage making. She was involved with the recreation of the 1810 Paymaster's Garden in Harpers Ferry and demonstrates period cook stove cookery there. An afternoon tea will be provided. Cost of the event is \$15. R.S.V.P.s are required by Monday, April 11, 2016 to mpeterso@shepherd.edu or 304-876-5021.

Foundation scholar to premiere original composition at anthology reception

Foundation scholar KAZIAH WHITE '13 will premiere an original musical composition at the Appalachian Heritage Writer-in-Residence Festival featuring Nikki Giovanni in October. A self-published composer with a passion for conducting, Kaz majored in music with a concentration in composition at Shepherd, where he was selected by the chair and faculty of the music department to receive the ELISE HOCH MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP.

The Jefferson County native often utilizes his interests in nature, Appalachia, and the rural environment as inspiration for his work. While Kaz is currently working toward a master's degree in composition at Syracuse University, he will briefly return to Shepherdstown for the premiere performance of his original piece at A Celebration of Appalachian Storytellers and a Musical Interlude on Tuesday, October 7 at 7 p.m. at the Robert C. Byrd Center for Legislative Studies.

Kaz, reflecting on the role his Foundation scholarship played in his future success, said, "Being selected to receive the Elise Hoch Memorial Scholarship was a huge surprise, but one for which I am still

extremely thankful. Were it not for all of the support I received throughout my time at Shepherd, I never would have had the chance to keep learning, growing, and developing in my career."



Kaz White '13



Sarah Brennan

Berkeley County WISH members (l. to r.) Amy Kayes '97, Cathy Ferro, Linda Roach '81, Cindy Harman '93, Denise Boehm, and Sherri Janelle gather to celebrate WISH's success in its first year.

WISH holds membership reception

President Suzanne Shipley hosted the inaugural Women Investing in Shepherd (WISH) membership reception on April 16 in the atrium of the Erma Ora Byrd Hall. Eighty of the 105 founding members were on hand to celebrate the group's success in its first year, as well as share the WISH story with invited guests. Through each woman's annual \$500 contribution, a total grant pool of \$52,500 was raised for distribution.

After remarks by President Shipley and Shepherd University Foundation Executive Vice President Monica Lingenfelter, both WISH members themselves, advisory member BEV HUGHES '71 gave an update on the ongoing grants process. The grants committee, an 11-member group chaired by BONNIE BRANNON '63, narrowed down proposals from 36 nonprofit and Shepherd learning programs to six candidates presented on the award ballot. Using a one-woman, one-vote process, members voted to choose one award winner in each category. At press time, the announcement of the first two winners was planned during an award celebration to be held in August at the Bavarian Inn, sponsored by the Shepherd University Foundation.

Before presenting President Shipley with a special star brooch at the April gathering, membership chair MARY "PEACHY" STALEY '70 announced the new Circle the Circle Campaign, which encourages founding members to bring in one new member to the group by the end of 2015. By circling the circle, WISH is striving to double its grant pool to \$100,000 for 2016.

If you are interested in becoming a WISH member or learning more about the group, contact Shepherd University Foundation staff member Meg Peterson at 304-876-5021 or email mpeterso@shepherd.edu or visit online at www.ShepherdUniversityFoundation.org and click on Get Involved.

Connect with Shepherd University and go green

Shepherd wants to know what's new with you. Send news of weddings, births, new jobs—any updates that you want to share—to Sarah Brennan, Shepherd University Foundation, P.O. Box 5000, Shepherdstown, WV 25443 or sbrennan@shepherd.edu.

Help us go green by sending us your up-to-date email address. Look to the future and be part of our efforts to save our environment with paperless communications.

Foundation officers: Why they serve

As Shepherd enters into a period of transition and growth, Shepherd University Foundation leaders explain why they devote their time and talents to the organization in its ongoing work to support and strengthen the university.

“Higher education in 2015 is expensive. I serve on the Foundation board of directors simply to help our students afford a Shepherd education.”

• **Allen Lueck '67, Secretary**

“I recognize the importance of higher education and would not be where I am today without the resources Shepherd University provides. While there are many ways I can show my gratitude for my SU education, I choose to utilize my talents through service on the Foundation board of directors so that others' lives may be enriched in the same way mine was.”

• **Julia M. Connell '84, Treasurer**

“My career and life were greatly enhanced by the quality of the education I received from Shepherd University. This was made possible by an inspiring professor and a scholarship from the Alumni Association. In wanting to give back to Shepherd, I have been motivated by the mission of the Foundation to raise and manage private funds for scholarships, faculty excellence, and university support.”

• **Ramon A. Alvarez '62, Vice President**



Sam Levitan, Sam Levitan Photography

“Shepherd University is in a period of change. This past summer, we bid farewell to Shepherd’s president, Dr. Suzanne Shipley, as she departed to lead Midwestern State University in her native Texas. While this change certainly presents new challenges for our great institution, we join the campus community in embracing it as an opportunity for reinvigoration and growth as we enter the next chapter of our long and distinguished history.

Throughout this time of transition, the Foundation continues to strengthen the work and service of Shepherd University, just as it has done for the past 54 years. As stewards and fiduciaries of your private gifts, Foundation leaders remain resolute in our responsibility to cul-

tivate Shepherd’s continued growth and development for the benefit of its students, faculty, and programs. As president of the Foundation, I urge you—our alumni and friends—to consider how you might recommit to Shepherd during this evolutionary phase.

There are many ways to support Shepherd University. Become a donor. Volunteer. Mentor a student. Come to campus! Opportunities to connect abound in this living, learning community. Visit us online at www.ShepherdUniversityFoundation.org to see what’s right for you.

Our outstanding alumni and friends have been instrumental in shaping Shepherd’s legacy. Please stand with us in supporting its next evolution as well. • **Michael A. Smith '89, President**

Foundation

Your gift makes a difference

As a student at Shepherd in the mid to late 1990s, DAMIAN BEANE '15 was quite literally at the top of his game.

The former running back and 2006 Shepherd Athletic Hall of Fame inductee was a four-year and three-time All-American starter for the Rams from 1996 through 1999. He remains Shepherd's all-time leader in rushing yards (6,768) and all-purpose yards (7,282), and is likewise the all-time leading rusher in WVIAC history. In fact, he's among an elite group of players in college football history overall who have rushed 1,000 yards or more per season.

Damian was Shepherd's first student-

Shepherd was the stuff of legends.

But Damian was more than just an exceptional athlete. Recruited by Shepherd after playing football since the age of 12, including a three-year high school career, the Baltimore native fell in love with Shepherd and Shepherdstown in general and dreamed of becoming the first in his family to graduate from college. In the spring of 1999, however, with only 40 credits left to complete his undergraduate degree, Damian chose to leave Shepherd for personal reasons to focus on his family. He would not return for more than a decade.

"I felt at the time that I needed to start working full time, so I stopped going to school," he said. "I wanted to come back, but things kept happening—I guess 'real life' was happening."

For Damian, "real life" wound up including a successful long-term career in the food service industry. After a brief stint managing a Nike store in Hagerstown, Maryland, he joined the staff of the former Yellow Brick Bank Restaurant in Shepherdstown, where he worked his way up from server to bartender to dining room manager over the course of four years. At that point, he left to help open The Press Room, another popular Shepherdstown eatery, before moving to California in 2007 to work for the Four Seasons Hotel in San Francisco.

After three years on the West Coast, Damian returned East and continued working for the Four Seasons in Georgetown while living in Shepherdstown. Quickly tiring of the long commute, however, he briefly traded food service for cellular sales before returning to the hospitality industry in 2013 as the dining room manager at Shepherdstown's Bavarian Inn. Around the same time he also



As a student at Shepherd in the late nineties, Damian Beane was known for his illustrious football career.

began to think about returning to school, and so he once again cast his eye toward Shepherd.

"Coming from Baltimore...sometimes it was a struggle," he said about what had drawn him to Shepherdstown 17 years earlier. "When I got here, it just felt right. People stay here for a long time. There's a lot to be said for an institution that retains people the way Shepherd does."

When he missed the deadline to apply for financial aid in time for the fall 2013 semester, Damian instead enrolled at Blue Ridge Community and Technical College in Martinsburg, took two classes, and received his associates degree. By that point, his financial aid had been approved at Shepherd, and he was able to enroll in the Regents Bachelor of Arts program in the fall of 2014.

Upon his return to Shepherd, Damian became the recipient of the JAMES AND KATHERINE MOLER SCHOLARSHIP, a general academic award established for West Virginia residents, with first priority given to student-athletes. Dr. James Moler served with distinction as president of the Shepherd University Foundation for 26 years, and both he and his wife were Shepherd alumni, having graduated in the Class of 1930.

The award made all the difference to Damian, now 37, who maintains a close relationship with the Shepherd football team, as well as Monte Cater and his



Rob Shaw

Upon his return to Shepherd in the fall of 2014, Damian Beane participated in the Foundation's Annual Scholar Photo Day, held each October. He was the recipient of the James and Katherine Moler Scholarship.

athlete to gain first team All-Conference honors four times, and he set a school record rushing for 100 yards or more 37 times during his four-season tenure. A two-time WVIAC Offensive Player of the Year (1998-1999), he led the Rams to three straight conference titles and two NCAA II playoff appearances. In 1998 he finished fourth in the Harlon Hill Trophy balloting, and placed third in 1999. In short, his illustrious football career at

coaching staff, several of whom played with Damian in the 1990s. "It means the world to me to have been awarded this opportunity," he said. "This scholarship enabled me to continue my education and achieve a lifelong goal."

And achieve that goal he did, as he officially graduated from Shepherd in May. While Damian was the first of his four siblings—three younger brothers and a twin sister—to earn his degree, he wasn't the first in his family; his mother, who had returned to college when Damian was in 11th grade, beat him to the punch one year earlier.

"It kind of broke her heart a little bit when I left school," he said. "She wanted me to be the first in my family to earn a degree. But she understood why I did it, and I always reassured her that I would go back and finish. I just didn't think it would take as long as it did."

Having fulfilled his longtime goal of returning to and graduating from college, Damian is now focused on what the future holds. In June he became the conference services and catering manager for the Holiday Inn in Front Royal, Virginia. He also plans to pursue his M.B.A. and hopes to eventually become certified in some aspect of information technology. And lest it become all work and no play, in May 2016 he's getting married.

"You never realize the different directions in which life is going to take you," he said, reflecting on the path to his elusive college degree. "I just feel very fortunate that mine led me back to Shepherd and allowed me to finish something I really wanted to finish."

✦ *Kristin Alexander*

If you would like make a gift of any size to Shepherd University and help make a difference in the lives of deserving Shepherd students, the Foundation stands ready to help. Please contact Monica Lingenfelter, executive vice president of the Foundation, at 304-876-5397 or mlingenf@shepherd.edu.

PUBLIC ART REVITALIZATION

Foundation accepts gift of four sculptures to revitalize public art program on campus

Shepherd University welcomed four sculptures donated by John and Patricia Bachner, who recently moved to Shepherdstown from Great Falls, Virginia. The couple made the gift, part of their art collection, as a way to invest in their new community. The sculptures are the work of Michael Bigger and Harold "Skip" Van Houten, two pioneers of metal art. In addition to being respected artists with works in public and private collections nationwide, both Bigger and Van Houten were dedicated teachers with lifetime service to their respective institutions.

The four sculptures contain elements that echo structures and materials found in local surroundings and were chosen to complement the natural and historic beauty of Shepherd's campus, according to assistant art professor Christian Benefiel. As one of several faculty and executive staff members responsible for choosing the new pieces and their locations, he said, "These individual pieces were selected from the Bachner collection to represent a willingness to consider the abstract and an open approach to intellectualism and understanding. While this is a substantial financial gift to the university, for me the hidden value is in the revitalization of the public art program on campus, something I hope to continue."



Garzon Hampton receives Fulbright Scholar grant to Nicaragua with an assist from the Paul and Lisa Welch Distinguished Awards Program

The first time Amy Garzon Hampton traveled outside the United States to Latin America in 2001, she experienced what she describes as a “profound shift in social consciousness” that would continue to shape and mold her career for the next 15 years. The epiphany came during a trip to Guatemala to work on Spanish language acquisition as she pursued her master of social work degree.

“That’s when I decided that I wanted to do global work,” said Garzon Hampton, a lecturer and clinical instructor in Shepherd’s Department of Social Work and director of its Title IV-E Program, which provides foster and adoptive parent training in

herd who wish to pursue prestigious national scholarships and awards such as the Fulbright, Rhodes, and MacArthur.

“The Welches’ gift definitely aided in the collection of information regarding this opportunity and in facilitating submission in the final days before the deadline,” said Garzon Hampton.

Dr. Timothy K. Nixon, director of the Paul and Lisa Welch Distinguished Awards Program, was also instrumental in helping facilitate the application process, beginning with the Fulbright presentation he coordinated on campus for interested applicants. Garzon Hampton, who had previously researched and considered applying for a Fulbright, attended the information session and came away from it with a renewed sense of resolve.

“By bringing Fulbright representatives to campus, Dr. Nixon made the prospect of obtaining a Fulbright grant seem more realistic,” she said.

Garzon Hampton once again called upon Nixon for advice and guidance shortly before the application deadline. “He helped me fine-tune my application and resolve last-minute questions,” she said. “He was very encouraging.”

Though she chose Nicaragua as the focus of her Fulbright grant, Garzon Hampton gained her vast majority of experience in international social work from her time spent in Guatemala. After completing her master’s degree in 2003, she taught at a bilingual Guatemalan school for several months before returning to the U.S. to focus on her family. It would be another seven years before she was able to return.

After the Council of Social Work Education incorporated a mandate to begin the internationalization of social work curricula as part of their educational guidelines for accredited social work programs, Dr. Geri Crawley-Woods, professor of social work, offered Garzon Hampton the opportunity to create a study abroad course to Guatemala. In 2010, Garzon Hampton and Crawley-Woods completed a reconnaissance mission, whereupon Garzon Hampton reconnected with contacts and agencies that enabled her to construct an international community service-learning course. It was during this trip that Garzon Hampton also met the Nicaraguan man she would later marry.

From there, things moved quickly. In 2011, Garzon Hampton and Crawley-Woods took their first group of Shepherd students to Guatemala. A year later, Garzon Hampton’s fiancé immigrated to the U.S., and they were married. And in 2014, she conducted her second study abroad trip to Guatemala, with her husband and children accompanying her.

After the coursework ended, Crawley-Woods returned to the U.S. with the students while Garzon Hampton and her family traveled 18 hours by bus to Nicaragua. Once there, she began researching possibilities for a Fulbright proposal.

“It was important to me to involve the host institution in the formulation of the grant proposal, as opposed to developing my own agenda and requesting them to accommodate,” she said. “When I met with representatives at UNAN-León, I was pleased to learn they were interested in establishing a training program for their foster families and that they would welcome the devel-



Cecelia Mason

Amy Garzon Hampton

a 15-county region through the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Services.

Her long-held dream became a reality this spring when she was awarded a highly competitive, merit-based grant through the Fulbright Program, the federally sponsored flagship international educational exchange program created by former U.S. Senator J. William Fulbright (D-Ark.). The program’s mission aims to increase a mutual understanding between United States citizens and people in other countries. As a Fulbright Scholar, Garzon Hampton will spend nine months in Nicaragua, where she will develop and implement a child welfare course and training program for foster parents at Universidad Nacional Autónoma de Nicaragua (UNAN-León). The rigorous application process for the grant was supported by a private gift from Shepherdstown residents Paul and Lisa Welch for students and faculty at Shep-

opment of a child welfare course for social work students.”

Her decision to focus on Nicaragua over Guatemala was as pragmatic as it was sentimental. In addition to being her husband’s homeland, Nicaragua has the lowest crime rate in Central America—an important factor as the mother of three considered moving her family to another country.

Departing for Nicaragua in August, Garzon Hampton has now begun the next chapter in her global outreach work. Beyond the objectives outlined in her proposal, she sees her Fulbright grant as a chance to develop a better understanding of social services in the Nicaraguan context, the role of international agencies, and opportunities for collaboration.

“It’s my intention to forge a connection between Shepherd and UNAN beyond my work in training and course development,” she said, noting that she and Crawley-Woods are already constructing a study abroad experience for Shepherd students in Nicaragua in May 2016.

“This opportunity will enable me to be well-positioned to organize community service, connect with Nicaraguan social workers, and develop a strong framework for understanding of local and global social issues facing social workers in both the U.S. and Central America,” she said.

While in Nicaragua, Garzon Hampton plans to maintain a blog titled *Nicaragua Facilitating Sueños* about her work with UNAN-Léon. Follow her adventures at www.garzonhampton.blogspot.com or join us on the Foundation’s Facebook page www.facebook.com/ShepherdUniversityFoundation, where updates will also be posted throughout the year. ➔ *Kristin Alexander*



Photo courtesy Amy Garzon Hampton

Amy Garzon Hampton and her family arrive in Nicaragua after an 18-hour trip by bus following her 2014 international community service-learning trip with Shepherd students. It was during this trip that she began researching possibilities for her Fulbright proposal.

Follow along ↘



Giving Programs

A simple way to support Shepherd!

The Shepherd University Foundation is proud to participate in a host of donor-friendly giving programs. From United Way to Amazon Smile to the Eastern Panhandle and Chesapeake Bay Area Combined Federal Campaigns (code #23035), the Foundation makes it simple for you to support Shepherd University in the way that best suits your lifestyle. Scheduled credit card payments are also an option or contact us at 304-876-5397 to learn about our matching gifts program.



McMurrin Scholars: Join us for Homecoming

Want to offer planning ideas for the 55th celebration? Join the McMurrin Scholars organization for a breakfast meeting Saturday, September 26 to plan for the 55th anniversary of the first McMurrin Scholar award.

Enjoy the alumni breakfast provided on the front lawn of McMurrin Hall and then meet at 9 a.m. in the Shepherd Room to hear about plans and offer ideas to celebrate the spring 2016 55th anniversary of the first McMurrin Scholar award. Afterward, watch the parade as it passes by McMurrin Hall at 10:15 a.m., visit the McMurrin Scholars tailgate at 10:30 a.m., and enjoy complimentary tickets to the football game at noon. Come back to campus—Shepherd is waiting for you!

For questions and game tickets, please contact Sarah Brennan, sbrennan@shepherd.edu, 304-876-5195. ➔

SAVE THE DATE!

McMurrin Scholars
55th Convocation and Celebration

April 22, 2016

Afternoon activities, dinner reception and more!
Visit www.ShepherdUniversityFoundation.org
for more information as plans develop.

Foundation

V.J. Brown Excellence in Writing Award

Leave a Legacy

To gain an idea of the enduring legacy the late Dr. V.J. Brown left at Shepherd University upon his passing in 2009, you need only look to the hand-carved wooden plaque hanging prominently in the third floor hallway of White Hall. Gifted to Shepherd in homage to the beloved sociology professor by his lifelong friend and colleague, the late Winfrey Ruffin, the plaque reads simply, “V.J. Brown, Jr.—Sociologist.”

“When V.J. was growing up, his father, Hook, had a similar plaque hanging on their front porch that said ‘Hook Brown—Democrat,’” explained Dr. Douglas Horner, professor of social work and director of the social work program, who worked closely with V.J. throughout his 37-year career at Shepherd. “When V.J. passed, Shepherd held a ceremony in his honor, which Winfrey attended. That’s when he had the plaque [in White Hall] made.”

Horner recounted the story with a nostalgic smile, adding that the two men, who met as undergraduates in sociology at Kansas State College (now Pittsburg State University), were like brothers. After V.J. helped facilitate a faculty position for Winfrey in Shippensburg University’s sociology department, the two worked together in 1980 to co-found the Mid-Atlantic Undergraduate Social Research Conference (MAUSRC). The organization provides students from a range of social scientific disciplines a supportive setting in which to present the results of their research projects.

“This was the first time anyone had ever really performed undergraduate research,” said Horner of the pioneering organization. “V.J. was very proud of their efforts.”

Student mentorship was important to V.J. Brown, who once struggled in his own undergraduate career before becoming a sergeant in the U.S. Army, which taught him the discipline necessary to focus and succeed. As a result, he felt a special kinship with the students who took his research methods course and went out of his way to foster their skills, even going so far as to perform the

research with them.

“He worked as hard as his students so that they would create good presentations,” said Horner. “He mentored them one by one.”

In fact, Horner feels that Brown’s dedication to his students set a standard for the sociology department and beyond. “He believed that all of us were here for the purpose of teaching the students and helping them go farther than we did.” This same work ethic was evident when V.J. later became dean of Shepherd’s School of Business and Social Sciences, a position he held from 2001 through 2008.

“He worked very hard to bring in good people as teachers,” said Horner. “Not just in the sociology department, but in others as well.”

In addition to taking a rigorous stance on research, V.J. was also committed to his students’ writing, as well as his own. The author of numerous scholarly articles and monographs, he held a particular passion for the area of collective behavior research, which focuses on the phenomena of crowds. In one of his more interesting essays, according to Horner, Brown applied this focus to Shepherd, writing about a memorable snowball fight on campus in the mid-1970s that resulted in several thousand dollars’ worth of damage to the dining hall.

Now an annual research and writing award established in his name will further encapsulate V.J.’s legacy at Shep-



Dr. V.J. Brown

herd and acknowledge his lifelong work in the field of sociology. Created by Dr. Chiquita Howard-Bostic and the Sociology Club of Shepherd University, the V.J. BROWN EXCELLENCE IN WRITING AWARD will offer full- and part-time undergraduate students the opportunity to present unique and innovative research in the areas of sociology, geography, anthropology, and criminal justice. Award-winning papers will appear in Shepherd’s *Sparks Journal of Undergraduate Research and Creative Works*. Winners will also receive an award in the form of a donation to a charity of their choice, empowering them to engage the community beyond the classroom. The first awards will be presented during the 2016 Student Recognition Day ceremony in the spring.

It’s another fitting tribute to a man Horner called “a student of people. V.J. was just a very enthusiastic person, especially when it came to teaching and research. And he loved Shepherd.

“He was one of a kind,” he added. “The very best kind.” — Kristin Alexander

ShIPLEY reflects on eight years at Shepherd

(continued from page 7)

“Before we ever took the presidency, I knew it was important to Randy that we share time at dinner as often as possible, I knew he hoped for a reasonable travel schedule, despite the distance to Charleston, and that he expected us to enjoy vacation time together, however brief or infrequent,” she said. “So we had certain goals as a couple that were important to protect.”

As she embarks on the next chapter in her life, leading Midwestern State University in her home state of Texas, ShIPLEY looks back on the eight years she spent at Shepherd with great fondness. “We have been really happy living here,” she said. “I will miss not just the university, but the whole Eastern Panhandle community. This part of West Virginia is such a great place to live.

“I have enjoyed getting up every morning in Shepherdstown and walking through this gentle and appealing landscape,” she added. “I’ll miss this welcoming community—it has offered us a true home.” — Cecelia Mason



Leading by example:

Paul '70 and Judith Harris '70 Armstrong



When PAUL '70 AND JUDITH HARRIS '70 ARMSTRONG, of Williamstown, were asked why they support Shepherd University through the Leadership Circle, Paul said:

“Judy and I choose to support Shepherd financially to enable the school that means so much to us to continue helping *Shepherd Students Succeed*.”

“We met at Shepherd and have now been married 45 years, so we feel a strong connection to our alma mater and wish to give back so other students can be successful. Our contributions may not be large, but our belief is in the consistency of giving that helps the Foundation maintain the quality for which Shepherd is so well known.”

Advancing Shepherd's strategic priorities

Members of the Leadership Circle are instrumental in providing the resources necessary to advance Shepherd's strategic priorities and help raise the university's profile through outstanding programs and academics. The Shepherd Fund's most generous annual donors help ensure the future of Shepherd University through their philanthropic support.

Newest Leadership Circle members

We are proud to recognize all 2015 donors to the Leadership Circle and would like to welcome new members Paul and Roseanne McDermott, Tom and Rebecca Segar, and Mark and Barbara Stern.

If you are interested in discussing a leadership gift, please contact JULIA KRALL '15 M.B.A., director of annual giving, at 304-876-5526 or jkral@shepherd.edu.

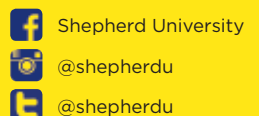
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For more information, contact the Admissions Office at **304-876-5212** or visit **SHEPHERD.EDU**.



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**Homecoming
is September 26!**

