

Profiles

Faculty and Staff Professional Activities

Spring 2015

Profiles, Faculty and Staff Professional Activities is published each semester by the Office of University Communications. Send information about your professional activities to Valerie Owens at vowens@shepherd.edu.

School of Business and Social Sciences

DR. ROBERT M. ANTHONY, assistant professor of sociology, published three peer-reviewed articles in 2014. “Bringing up the past” was published in the April 2014 issue of *Cities* and explores the relationship between the political histories of nations and the structure of their urban systems. “Urbanization and Political Change in the Developing World,” which appeared in the November 2014 issue of *Urban Affairs Review*, offers a ground-breaking interdisciplinary approach to understanding how urban population pressures encourage political change within the developing world. Finally, “Urban Primacy, City Size, and Political Change” was published in December 2014 in the special issue of the *International Journal of Sociology*. The article assesses the interplay between political elites, urban development, and political change. Anthony has presented his work at the American Sociological Association’s annual meeting as well as the Urban Affairs Association’s annual meeting. His research updates are available on Research Gate www.researchgate.net.

AMY GARZON HAMPTON, lecturer and clinical instructor in social work, is the recipient of a 2015-16 Fulbright U.S. scholar grant. She will spend nine months in Nicaragua working on child welfare issues. The Fulbright Program, which was started by former U.S. Senator J. William Fulbright (D-Ark.), is designed to increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and people in other countries and is the flagship international educational exchange program sponsored by the U.S. government.

Garzon Hampton runs the Department of Social Work’s Title IV-E Program, which provides foster and adoptive parent training in a 15-county region through the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Services. She also teaches several classes, including an international community service-learning course that includes travel to Guatemala.

Garzon Hampton will spend her time as a Fulbright at the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de Nicaragua, León, where she will help implement a child welfare class in the university’s social work department and will put together a pilot training program for foster parents.

As she prepared her application for the Fulbright, Garzon Hampton took advantage of the Paul and Lisa Welch Distinguished Awards Program. **DR. TIMOTHY K. NIXON**, associate professor of English and Welch program director, helped her fine tune the application. The program was started two years ago when Paul and Lisa Welch made a major gift to Shepherd with the goal of helping prepare students and faculty for prestigious scholarships and awards like the Fulbright, Rhodes, and MacArthur.

Garzon Hampton joins several others from Shepherd who have received Fulbrights, including **DR. ROLAND BERGMAN**, **DR. CARRIE MESSENGER**, **DR. ANN LEGREID**, **CHRISTIAN BENEFIEL**, **DR. SUZANNE SHIPLEY**, and **DR. TIMOTHY K. NIXON**.

DONALD HILLMAN, adjunct professor in business, had his article “Understanding Multigenerational Work-Value Conflict Resolution,” which was published in the *Journal of Workplace Behavioral Health*, included in an online article collection featuring the most downloaded articles published in Routledge health and social care journals in 2014.

DR. AART HOLTSLAG, assistant professor of political science, presented the paper “Indigenous Rights Norms” at the annual conference of the Southern Region of the International Studies Association in Richmond, Virginia. He also served as a discussant on two panels, Law and Norms in International Relations and International Cooperation: Theory and Practice, at the annual conference and chaired two panels, Ethics in International Relations and Law and Norms in International Relations.

He presented the paper “The Construction and Internationalization of Indigenous Rights Norms” at the annual conference of the International Studies Association in New Orleans. At the conference he served as a discussant on the U.N., Human Rights, and Humanitarian Law panel and chaired the Human Rights and Humanitarian Intervention panel.

Holtslag served as chair for the workshop Climate Change and Security: Research, Policy, and Teaching at the West Virginia Consortium for Faculty and Course Development in International Studies (FACDIS) 34th Annual Workshop in Morgantown.

Holtslag participated in two teach-ins organized by the Department of Political Science—the first on Issues Concerning Ebola and the second on Free Speech. He moderated the panel discussion Careers in Law: Congress and Government organized by the Shepherd Pre-Law Society and was discussion leader for the dinner and a movie event showing the movie *Bhutto* as part of the Common Reading Program.

DR. CHIQUITA HOWARD-BOSTIC, assistant professor of sociology and criminal justice studies, was honored as Shepherd's first recipient of the Storer College Faculty Award, a teaching and research award for faculty who incorporate diversity and social justice into classes and scholarship.

Howard-Bostic's manuscript "The Innovative Hybrid Course Model: A Taxonomy-focused Pedagogy in a Learner-Centered Culture" was accepted for publication in the *Journal of the East Coast Colleges Social Science Association*.

Howard-Bostic presented domestic violence research at two conferences. She was invited as the keynote speaker at the Psychological Sciences-Behavioral Sciences Research Symposium at Winston-Salem University in North Carolina. On April 14, she delivered a talk on female-perpetrated domestic violence to inform the university and human service professionals of co-occurring issues for women who are both victimized and perpetrate domestic violence. On March 3, she presented a paper titled "An Intervention Model for Proactive Female-Perpetrated Domestic Violence" at the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences (ACJS) 52nd Annual Meeting in Orlando, Florida.

On April 10, Howard-Bostic presented a paper promoting women's leadership strategies titled "New Leadership Techniques: Extending the Conceptualizing of Transformational Leadership Theory" at the East Coast Colleges Social Science Association 41st Annual Conference in Herndon, Virginia. She will present a paper titled "Survey of Multi-Media Assistive Technology as Universal Accommodations: An Academic Disability Services Initiative" at the 2015 Global Conference on Education, Research, and Policy in Washington, D.C., on April 23.

DR. JOSEPH W. ROBBINS, assistant professor of political science, has had an article published in *Armed Forces & Society* and was invited to revise another paper and resubmit it to the *Taiwan Journal of Democracy*. Robbins submitted a book chapter that applies the lessons learned from the post-World War II reconciliation efforts between Poland and Germany to on-going disputes in East Asia. Beyond these three projects, Robbins currently has under review two additional papers and hopes to submit other work by the year's end.

Robbins submitted grant proposals to the National Endowment for the Humanities and the National Science Foundation. In the latter project, Robbins requested grant monies over a three-year span to fund his research on electoral volatility in East Europe with the help of Shepherd University undergraduate students. If funded, the grant would provide financial support for the faculty member and students to cover research expenses and the costs associated with presenting their research findings at national conferences. Meanwhile, the former submission, titled "Through the Glass Darkly: the Soviet Union and Film," was prepared for the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Summer Institute Program. This submission would enable Shepherd University and Robbins to host a summer institute for secondary teachers to improve their knowledge of developments in the Soviet Union (and later, Russia) and how films can be used to communicate important developments.

A separate grant proposal submitted on behalf of Pi Sigma Alpha was funded; the funds acquired from this grant will enable PSA and the political science department's Model United Nations team to host a panel of experts who will discuss developing issues involving the United Nations and various countries.

Aside from these efforts, Robbins is scheduled to present two papers and serve as a discussant on two separate panels (and to chair a different panel) at the upcoming Western Political Science Association's Annual Conference, Las Vegas, Nevada. In one paper,

Robbins and political science major Chelsea Walters investigate the connection between gender representation and electoral volatility rates in Europe. In the second study, Robbins and two colleagues research the interconnectedness between European Union and state-level electoral volatility levels.

Robbins also has served as a peer-reviewer for multiple journals during the academic year and was invited to participate in a beta test for an online software program that is designed to strengthen students' comprehension of political science material.

Robbins has concluded his first year as coach of Shepherd's debate and forensics team. This year was a successful year on many accounts, given the team's recent hiatus and the interest generated among its members. On top of this stability, the team placed second overall in the Wilkes Invitational and West Virginia Intercollegiate Forensics Association tournaments. Several members of the team placed or reached the final rounds in all tournaments in which they competed. As Shepherd's coach, Robbins also has served as a member of the WVIFA Executive Council and was selected as the organization's webmaster (in summer 2014) and elected as executive secretary (in February 2015).

CINDY VANCE, assistant professor of accounting, continued her doctoral studies at Northcentral University to obtain a doctor of philosophy in business administration with a specialization in advanced accounting. She attended the West Virginia Council of Accounting Educators Conference in Charleston in fall 2014. Additionally, Vance is the advisor of the Shepherd University Accounting Club and a member of the Core Curriculum, Scholarships and Awards, and Graduate Council committees. She serves on the Shepherd University Alumni Association Board of Directors and is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and Virginia Society of Certified Public Accountants. She maintains her CPA license and serves as a consultant in the accounting field.

School of Arts and Humanities

DR. BETTY ELLZEY, professor of English and chair of the Department of English and Modern Languages, has published an article, "Can we do this all the time? Forming a Medieval Drama Troupe," in *Studies in Medieval and Renaissance Teaching*, Volume 21, Issue 2 (Fall 2014). She has been invited to direct *Sapientia*, a play by the 10th-century German nun Hrothsvita, at the University of Toronto in June.

DR. LOIS A. JARMAN, adjunct French professor, presented a poster session at the WVHTEC conference in October 2014 in Morgantown. Her poster was titled "Successful Online Language Teaching and Learning."

DR. MATTHEW J. KUSHIN, assistant professor of communication, will present "Adventures in Assessment Planning: Strategic Communication Concentration" at the Celebration of Student Learning Panel hosted by the Center for Teaching and Learning at Shepherd University in April.

He is serving on the Survey Task Force of the Optometric Extension Program Foundation (OEP), assisting the OEP nonprofit's leadership develop and execute targeted surveys for strategic planning purposes.

His Public Relations Principles course is participating in the CisionPoint University certification plan, an online education program in the Cision public relations software. Students who complete certification can use this as a résumé builder. Last semester, his Strategic Campaigns class created a publicity campaign for a local nonprofit Discover Downtown Charles Town.

His short fiction story, "Wully and the Get Together," was published in *Mount Island*, a literary journal.

DR. TIMOTHY K. NIXON, associate professor of English, presented a paper titled "A Distraction of Dishes: Food as Manipulation in Allende's *The House of the Spirits*" at the South Atlantic Modern Language Association Conference in Atlanta in November 2014. In addition, Nixon chaired a panel at that conference investigating whether regional literature helps or hinders the sustainability of unique and picturesque places. In December 2014, Nixon, in his capacity as the director of the Paul and Lisa Welch Distinguished Awards Program, took part in a second three-day workshop for new Fulbright Program administrators at the New York headquarters of the Institute of International Education.

DR. JAMES PATE, adjunct professor of English, will spend two weeks focusing on his writing during a fellowship in May at the Virginia Center for Creative Arts (VCCA). The Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation Creative Fellowships Program will cover the cost of Pate's stay at VCCA where he will work on short stories which take place in the 1970s and '80s in Memphis, Tennessee, where he grew up. He will be one of about 25 writers, visual artists, and composers at VCCA during that time period who will have the opportunity to work on their individual projects distraction-free.

DR. SYLVIA BAILEY SHURBUTT, professor of English and Appalachian Studies Program coordinator, presented a paper at the American Culture Association, October 3, 2014, in New Orleans. The paper came from Shurbutt's continuing study of Appalachian writers: "Stories from Affrilachia: the Narrative Poetry of Frank X Walker and Writing One's Life."

Shurbutt and **MONICA LINGENFELTER**, executive vice president of the Shepherd University Foundation, completed a West Virginia Humanities Council Major Grant for the 2015 Appalachian Heritage WIR: "Chasing Appalachia, Looking for Home: The Poetry and Prose of Nikki Giovanni." Giovanni will be Shepherd's 2015 Appalachian Heritage Writer-in-Residence and receive the Appalachian Heritage Writer's Award. Giovanni's *Chasing Utopia* will be the West Virginia Center for the Book's 2015 One Book, One West Virginia selection.

Shurbutt and **CHARLES BLACHFORD**, director of grant support, have submitted a \$118,000 grant to the National Endowment for the Humanities to hold another NEH Summer Seminar for Teachers at Shepherd in 2016. The 2013 NEH Seminar for Teachers at Shepherd University was the first-ever held in West Virginia.

RHONDA SMITH, professor of art and chair of the Department of Contemporary Art and Theater, displayed prints with collage elements that were inspired by a trip she took to see some of the country's great works of art. *Song of the Road*, a sabbatical exhibit, was on display in the Center for Contemporary Arts Phase 2 Gallery in February and March. Smith took a sabbatical in the fall of 2014 so she could visit museums and see artwork that she'd only seen previously in photographs. The journey started in the spring of 2014 when she went to American sculptor Walter De Maria's Lightning Field in western New Mexico and continued with a road trip to the Spiral Jetty, which was constructed in 1970 by sculptor Robert Smithson in the Great Salt Lake near Rozel Point, Utah. On the way to the Spiral Jetty, Smith stopped at a number of art-related places including the Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art in Bentonville, Arkansas, and Mount Rushmore and the Crazy Horse Memorial in South Dakota.

DR. JOHN E. STEALEY III, Distinguished Professor Emeritus of History, published a brief explanatory article titled "Great Kanawha Salt Industry: An Overview," *Goldenseal*, 40, No. 4 (Winter 2014); 24-25. The quarterly is a magazine about West Virginia traditional life published by the West Virginia Division of Culture and History with a circulation of more than 11,000.

Complimentary peer reviews of Stealey's recent book, *West Virginia's Civil War-Era Constitution: Loyal Revolution, Confederate Counter-Revolution, and the Convention of 1872* (Kent, Ohio, Kent State University Press, 2013) are appearing in the leading professional journals of United States history: *Journal of American History*, 101, No. 3 (December 2014), 941-42; *Journal of Southern History*, LXXX, No. 4 (November 2014), 977-78, and *The Virginia Magazine of History and Biography*, 122, No. 1 (Spring 2014), 79-80. Among the reaffirming and complimentary remarks, one reviewer commented, the "book will surely captivate anyone who wonders why West Virginia is like it is." (*JAH*, 942). Another observed: "Every library, courtroom, and law office in West Virginia should have a copy of this volume. And chances are that generations from now scholars will still be consulting Stealey's magnum opus." (*VMHB*, 80).

In the public history area, Stealey collected, selected, and described the historical photographs from various archives and assembled the 2015 wall calendar for Jefferson Security Bank. The work included historical scenes of Berkeley and Jefferson counties, West Virginia, and Washington County, Maryland.

School of Education and Professional Studies

KATHY DILLEY, associate professor of nursing education, earned nurse executive board certification (NE-BC) from American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC). This certification indicates expertise in nursing leadership, administration, and management. Dilley was recognized by Panhandle Home Health, Inc. for 20 years of outstanding loyalty and dedicated service. She served on Panhandle Home Health's Advisory Board from 1994 to 2014.

Dilley was a guest speaker for Potomac Valley Audubon Society Community Outreach Lectures. Her topic was "Safety in Outdoor Environments with Special Considerations for the Over Fifty Outdoor Enthusiast." She also presented "Responding to Outdoor Emergencies" for PVAS camp counselors. Her other community presentations included "Affordable Health Care Act (Obama Care) and Women's Health," and "Focus on Mental Health Issues: Treatment and Resources," presented to Harpers Ferry Women's Club.

School of Natural Sciences and Mathematics

DR. JASON BEST, professor of astronomy and astrophysics, has been named an American Council on Education (ACE) Fellow for academic year 2015-16. The ACE Fellows Program, which is celebrating its 50th anniversary this academic year, 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.

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 and served as Senate parliamentarian, as well as chairing the university Institutional Review Board. He was the coordinator of secondary science education programs for a decade and has served as acting chair of Shepherd's Institute of Environmental and Physical Sciences. He is complet-

ing 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.

He 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.

The ACE Fellows Program combines retreats, interactive learning opportunities, campus visits, and placement at another higher education institution to condense years of on-the-job experience and skills development into a single semester or year. As an ACE Fellow, Best will focus on undergraduate research, an issue of concern to Shepherd University, while working with a college or university president and other senior officers at a host institution.

DR. DAN DiLELLA, professor of chemistry and Department of Chemistry chair, and **DR. PETER VILA**, assistant professor of environmental and physical sciences, received nearly \$40,000 in grant money from the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission's Research Challenge Fund to purchase equipment for use in their classes.

DiLella received a \$20,000 grant to help purchase a nuclear magnetic resonance spectrometer, which is one of the most important tools used by chemists for determining the structures of molecules.

Vila received a \$19,242 grant to purchase a Eureka Manta 2 multiparameter water quality instrument that monitors the physical, chemical, and biological attributes of aquatic systems.

DR. JEFFREY GROFF, assistant professor of physics, presented a poster with **DR. SYTIL MURPHY**, assistant professor of physics, titled "Using Arduino to Study Resonance" at the winter meeting of the American Association of Physics Teachers in San Diego, California, on January 5, 2015.

DR. JOHN C. LANDOLT, Research Professor Emeritus of Biology, co-authored a paper, "Occurrence of myxomycetes in the aerial 'canopy soil' microhabitat," that has been accepted for publication in *Mycosphere* 6 (1): 83–86 (2015). *Mycosphere* is an international journal of mycology. Another co-authored research paper is currently under journal review and others are in preparation.

The research collection of dictyostelid cellular slime molds accumulated during Landolt's tenure at Shepherd University continues to be systematically transferred to the University of Wisconsin, and recently an exclusive license agreement has been negotiated between Shepherd University and the AmebaGone corporation that licenses AmebaGone to develop marketable products derived from this collection. This agreement permits Landolt and others to continue to use collection materials for basic research.

DR. CAROL Z. PLAUTZ, associate professor of biology, was the recipient of the 2014 Chesapeake Bay Forest Champion Award presented by the Cacapon Institute in recognition of her contributions to West Virginia Project CommuniTree's On the Ground Impact. As chair of the Campus Tree Committee, Plautz has organized more than seven campus tree plantings over the past five years, coordinating with student organizations, faculty, administration, donors, and West Virginia Project CommuniTree to help enhance the beauty and the ecological and educational benefits of planting trees on campus.

DR. QING WANG, associate professor of mathematics, received a three-year \$431,762 grant from the West Virginia IDeA Network of Biomedical Research Excellence to continue a multidisciplinary project that is developing and testing mathematical models to determine how to treat cancer tumors. The grant supports a project that involves math, computer science, and science students who help do research on using computer modeling to determine how immunotherapy and chemotherapy impact tumor growth. The goal is to determine what frequency and dosage of the combination of therapies has the maximum benefit to cancer patients.

The project involves using data found in published studies and studies that are currently underway to create computer models that determine what combination and amount of immunotherapy and chemotherapy are needed to treat a specific tumor. The three-year grant will allow Shepherd to hire students to work alongside professors to conduct the research. **DR. ROBERT WARBURTON**, professor of biochemistry, is the biology consultant for the project, and **DR. ZHIJUN WANG**, associate professor of computer science, is the computer science consultant. Dr. David Klinke, West Virginia University associate professor of chemical engineering, is the mentor.

The IDeA Network of Biomedical Research Excellence is a National Institutes of Health program that provides grants for biomedical research to 23 states and Puerto Rico. The goal of West Virginia's program is to develop and enhance a network of multidisciplinary statewide biomedical research, provide opportunities for undergraduate students to participate in research, and to enhance the science and technology knowledge of the state's workforce.

The research network is led by Marshall University and WVU. It includes 13 other institutions throughout the state. The grant gives Shepherd students the opportunity to spend part of their summer helping with research in labs at WVU.

Teaching, Learning, and Instructional Resources

SHANNON HOLLIDAY, coordinator for Students in Transition, presented on a panel discussion in February at the 34th annual First-Year Experience Conference in Dallas, Texas. The topic of the panel was Common Reading Programs: Exploring Best Practices for Sustainability and Assessment. The discussion was organized by Dr. Doris Jones, from the American University in Cairo. Holliday was invited to present alongside coordinators of other outstanding programs across the country. Shepherd's Common Reading Program was lauded for its curricular and co-curricular programming, longevity, and overall program success.

Administration

ELIZABETH J. SECHLER, director of residence life, earned a Ph.D. in human development with a specialization in higher education in December from Marywood University. The title of her dissertation was "Social Entrepreneurship in Residence Life."

PATT WELSH, administrative secretary in Information Technology Services, submitted a poem titled "The Lonesome Pine Tree" to the 2014 Appalachian Heritage Writers contest and had the opportunity to meet and talk with the 2014 Writer in Residence West Virginia writer Homer Hickam, author of *October Sky*. Welsh has read her poems "The Lonesome Whistle" and "Apple Seed" before Ron Rash and Gretchen Laskas, who had served as previous writers in residence. Her poetry is periodically published in the *Martinsburg Journal*, and her articles have been featured in the *Spirit of Jefferson* in Charles Town. Her work was published in the hard cover coffee table edition of *Hometown Memories Good Old Days, Monday Washdays and Outhouse Roosters*, which featured stories from the Eastern Panhandle and North Western Maryland. Her article was

titled “The Old WPA Outhouse.” Welsh has read her poetry at the Blue Moon Café during the Shepherd Common Reading program. Her next writing venture is to publish her children’s book.

Contemporary American Theater Festival

PEGGY MCKOWEN, Contemporary American Theater Festival associate producing director, designed the costumes for the Chinese production of “How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying,” which opened in January at the Beijing Century Theater. McKowen was there for the opening night sold-out performance.