Please join me in welcoming the following new faculty to the Shepherd community. Several receptions and events are planned throughout the fall semester to allow them to be introduced formally to the Shepherd Community. Please take time to introduce yourself should you see them in your travels about campus. Below is a brief bio for each new faculty member.

**Dr. Marat Akopian**, from Tbilisi, Georgia, has been appointed Visiting Assistant Professor of Political Science. Dr. Akopian received his Ph.D. in Political Science from Rutgers University (2006), a Master of Arts in Political Science from Central European University, Budapest, Hungary (1994), a Master of Arts in Translation & Interpreting from Tbilisi State Pedagogical Institute of Foreign Languages, Tbilisi, Georgia (1991), and a Bachelor of Arts in Russian (major) and International Affairs (minor) from Tbilisi State University, Tbilisi, Georgia (1989).

Dr. Akopian has been a Visiting Assistant Professor in the Department of Political Science at Austin College, Sherman, Texas, and was employed as an Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of Political Science at Sakartvelos University, the University of Georgia (Tbilisi, Georgia). Prior to these positions, he was a Visiting Assistant Professor at St. Francis Xavier University (Canada) and Seasonal Lecturer at the University of Calgary and Mount Royal University (Canada).

**Ms. Brittany Batts**, from Leesburg, Virginia, has been appointed Lecturer/Assistant Women’s Basketball Coach. Ms. Batts received her Master of Science in Athletic Leadership from Castleton University, Castleton, VT (2017) and a Bachelor of Science in Sports Management and Marketing with a minor in Advertising Communication from Gannon University in Erie, Pennsylvania (2015).

Prior to coming to Shepherd, Ms. Batts was the Women’s Assistant Basketball Coach at Bridgewater College, Bridgewater, VA. She previously was the Women’s Basketball Assistant Coach at Castleton University, Castleton, VT.
Ms. Michelle Files, from Martinsburg, WV, has been appointed Visiting Assistant Professor of Accounting. She received a Masters of Business Administration with Accounting Concentration from Shepherd University (2013) and a Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting and Business Administration from Shepherd University (2006).

Prior to her full-time appointment, Ms. Files has been employed as an adjunct faculty member in the Graduate Studies Division at Shepherd University. She has also worked as an adjunct accounting instructor at Blue Ridge Community and Technical College. She is a Certified Public Accountant (WV license) and a Certified Specialist in Estate Planning through NIEPE. Ms. Files has also been employed as a supervisor at Smith Elliott Kearns and Company, LLC.

Dr. Arnetta Fletcher, from Frederick, Maryland, has been appointed Visiting Assistant Professor of Family and Consumer Sciences. She received her Ph.D. in Nutrition from the University of Maryland, College Park (2015), and her Bachelor of Science degree in Dietetics with a concentration in Pediatrics from the University of Delaware, Newark, Delaware (2011). Dr. Fletcher was a visiting scholar at the School of Agriculture and Biology at Shanghai Jiao Tong University, Peoples Republic of China (2013).

Dr. Fletcher has been employed as an adjunct faculty in the Family and Consumer Sciences department at Shepherd. She is the owner of A.R. Fletcher Nutrition Consulting, LLC, and has worked as a clinical research coordinator and a volunteer state regulatory specialist.

Mrs. Laurie Galen, from Eldersburg, Maryland, has been appointed Visiting Assistant Professor of Nursing Education. She received her Master of Science, Nursing with a concentration on Nursing Education from Towson University, Towson, Maryland (2016); a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from University of Maryland School of Nursing, Baltimore, Maryland (1987); and a Bachelor of Science in Microbiology from the University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland (1984).

Prior to her appointment at Shepherd University, Ms. Galen has experience as a Course Leader/Instruction at Howard Community College, Columbia, Maryland, an Adjunct Clinical Faculty at Carroll Community College, Westminster, MD, and a Registered Nurse at Sheppard Pratt Hospital, Towson, Maryland.
Ms. Carol Goolsby, from Martinsburg, West Virginia, has been appointed Visiting Lecturer of Business Administration for the College of Business. Ms. Goolsby has a Master of Business Administration from Shenandoah University, Winchester, Virginia (2014), a Bachelor of Science in Business Education from Shippensburg University, Shippensburg, PA (1992), and an Associate of Arts in Business Administration/Accounting from Penn State, Mont Alto, Pennsylvania.

Ms. Goolsby has been employed as an adjunct faculty in the College of Business at Shepherd University. Prior to her employment with Shepherd, she was the Chief Financial Officer for NDMC, a non-profit organization in Kearneysville, WV. She previously was employed as the Executive Director of the Eastern Panhandle Regional Planning and Development Council.

Dr. Samuel Greene, from Alexandria, Virginia, has been appointed Assistant Professor of Political Science for the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences. Dr. Greene has a Ph.D. in Politics from Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C. (2012), a MPhil in International Relations from the University of Cambridge, United Kingdom (2006), and a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and History from George Fox University, Newberg, Oregon (2005).

Prior to his appointment at Shepherd, Dr. Greene was an Associate Professor of Strategic Studies at Near East South Asia Center for Strategic Studies, Washington D.C. and National Defense College, Abu Dhabi, UAE. He was an Assistant Professor of Political Science and for the Honors Program in Public Policy at Howard Bayne University in Brownwood, Texas.

Dr. Sargon Hasso, from Park Ridge, Illinois, has been appointed Visiting Assistant Professor of Computer and Information Sciences. Dr. Hasso has a Ph.D. in Computer Science from Illinois Institute of Technology, Chicago, Illinois (2007), a Master of Science in Computer Science from Illinois Institute of Technology (1996), a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science from Illinois Institute of Technology (1988), and a Bachelor of Science in Nuclear Engineering from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Illinois (1982).

Prior to coming to Shepherd, Dr. Hasso was a Computer Science Instructor at Loyola University, (Chicago, Illinois), Illinois Institute of Technology, and the AAA Computer Training Center. Dr. Hasso has extensive experience as an Independent Solutions Architect Consultant and as an Enterprise IT Architect.
Ms. Emily Hester, from Cedar City, UT, has been appointed Lecturer/Head Coach Women’s Soccer for the College of Education and Professional Studies. Ms. Hester has a Master of Science in Physical Education, Coaching of Sport, from Southwest Minnesota State University, Marshall, MN (2016) and a Bachelor of Science in Health and Human Performance from Bellevue University, Bellevue, NE (2014).

Prior to her appointment at Shepherd, Ms. Hester was the Assistant Women’s Soccer Coach and Adjunct instructor at Southern Utah University, Cedar City, UT. Previously, she was the Assistant Women’s Soccer Coach at Chicago State University, Chicago, IL.

Mr. Tirell Hiatt, from Frostburg, Maryland, has been appointed Lecturer/Director of Academic Advising/Assistant Football Coach for the College of Education and Professional Studies. Mr. Hiatt has a Master of Science in Sports Management from Liberty University, Virginia (2015), and a Bachelor of Arts in Physical Education and Recreation Administration from Southern Virginia University (2012).

Prior to coming to Shepherd, Mr. Hiatt was the Offensive Coordinator/QB Coach for Frostburg State University, Maryland. At Southern Virginia University, he was employed as the Offensive Coordinator/QB Coach/Play Caller, Offensive Line Coach/Run Game Coordinator, Wide Receiver Coach, and Athletic Director Administrative Assistant.

Dr. Amanda Mandzik, from Pine Grove Mills, Pennsylvania, has been appointed Assistant Professor of Economics in the College of Business. Dr. Mandzik has a Ph.D. in Economics from West Virginia University, Morgantown, West Virginia (2014), a Master of Arts in Economics from West Virginia University (2008), and a Bachelor of Science from Shepherd University (2008).

Prior to coming to Shepherd, Dr. Mandzik was an Assistant Teaching Professor at Penn State University and she was previously an Instructor at West Virginia University.
**Dr. Cecilia Melton**, from Harpers Ferry, West Virginia, has been appointed Visiting Assistant Professor of Environmental Studies. Dr. Melton has a Ph.D. in Aquatic Biosciences from Tokyo University of Marine Science and Technology (2007), a Master of Science in Biological Oceanography from Fundação Universidade Federal do Rio Grande, Rio Grande, Brazil (2001), and an Undergraduate diploma in Oceanography from Fundação Universidade Federal do Rio Grande (1998).

Prior to her appointment at Shepherd, Dr. Melton worked as an adjunct professor at Shepherd. She has previous experience as a medical interpreter, translator and health educator, and as a visiting scientist and research associate.

**Dr. Jennifer Penland**, from Alpine, Texas, has been appointed Acting Chair and Associate Professor of Education. Dr. Penland has a Doctorate in Educational Leadership with an emphasis on higher education and multicultural studies from Lamar University, Beaumont, Texas (2007), a Master’s degree in Secondary Education/Effective Teaching/Geology from Colorado State University (2001), and a Bachelor’s degree in Education, emphasis on Foundations of Education and Earth Sciences (1-8) from Lamar University (1989).

Prior to her current appointment at Shepherd, Dr. Penland previously worked at Sul Ross State University as the SACS & QEP Accreditation, Title V AD/Director of Experiential Learning and Coordinator of FYS and as Interim Chair for the Department of Homeland Security and Criminal Justice. She previously was employed with Shepherd University as an Assistant Professor of Education, Advisor, and CAPE Math/Sci PED 2 Data Contributor.

**Dr. George Ray**, from Charles Town, WV, has been appointed Visiting Assistant Professor of Computer, Mathematics and Engineering and of the Institute of Environmental and Physical Sciences. Dr. Ray has a Doctor of Management from the Swiss Management Center, Switzerland (2013), a Master of Science in Software Engineering from West Virginia University (2006), and a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science from the University of Maryland (1982).

Dr. Ray has previous experience as an adjunct instructor at Shepherd in the Computers, Science, and Engineering department. He has previously worked as a Chief, Application Services for the U.S. Court, Principle Consultant at Microsoft, Manager for Microcomputer Systems at Amtrak, and has held other CIS related positions.
Mr. Anthony Schiera, from Indiana, Pennsylvania, has been appointed Lecturer of English in the College of Arts and Humanities. Mr. Schiera is a Ph.D. candidate in English (A.B.D.) at Indiana University of Pennsylvania, Indiana, Pennsylvania and has a Master of Arts in Teaching in English to Speakers of Other Languages, School for International Training (1998), and a Bachelor of Arts in English Literature from University of New Mexico (1994).

Prior to working at Shepherd University, Mr. Schiera was a temporary English faculty at Indiana University of Pennsylvania, an instructor at American Language Institute (Indiana, PA), Takatuf Faculty at Takatuf Summer Programme (Muscat, Oman), Assistant Language Lecture at Sultan Qaboos University (Muscat, Oman), and an English Language Arts Instructor at Greensville County High School, Emporia, Virginia.

Mr. Steven Shaffer, from Charles Town, West Virginia, has been appointed Lecturer for the Institute of Environmental and Physical Sciences. Mr. Shaffer has a Master of Science in Strategic Leadership from Mountain State University (2012) and a Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Arts from Shepherd University (2004).

Prior to his full-time appointment, Mr. Shaffer has been an adjunct professor in the Institute of Environmental and Physical Science. He was a GeoSar Project Manager with Fugro EarthData (Frederick, MD).

Ms. Maria Skowronski, from Myersville, Maryland, has been appointed Clinical Faculty/Director of the Intensive English Language Program. Ms. Skowronski has a Master of Arts in Teaching from Shepherd University (2018) and a Bachelor of Science degree in English Literature and Composition, Towson University, Towson, Maryland (2016).

Prior to her full-time appointment, Ms. Skowronski was a graduate assistant for Shepherd University’s Intensive English Language program.
Dr. Samuel Stinson, from The Plains, Ohio, has been appointed Lecturer of English in the College of Arts and Humanities. Dr. Stinson has a Ph.D. in English: Rhetoric and Composition, Ohio University (2018), a Master of Arts in English Literature from Western Kentucky University (2012), a Bachelor of Arts in Biblical Studies from Florida College (2006), and a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science with a second major in English Writing, Western Kentucky University (2003).

Prior to working at Shepherd University, Dr. Stinson was an English instructor at Ohio University.
New Fall Adjuncts:


Dr. Todd Campbell - (Department of Communications) - Ph.D. Communication Media and Instruction Technology, Indiana University of Pennsylvania (2015). *Communication and New Media and Radio Practicum.*

Dr. Ismail Celik - (Department of Computer Sciences, Mathematics, and Engineering) – Ph.D. Mechanics and Hydraulics, The University of Iowa (1980). *College Algebra.*

Mr. David DeStefano - (Department of Computer Sciences, Mathematics and Engineering) – Master of Arts in Curriculum and Instruction, Shepherd University (2009); B.A. in Education, Rutgers College (1991). *College Algebra – Martinsburg Center.*

Ms. Maria Domenick - (Department of Biology) – Master of Life Sciences, University of MD, College Park (2005); B.A. Secondary Education, General Science, West Virginia Wesleyan College (2001). *General Biology – Martinsburg Center.*

Dr. Petru Drumea – (Department of Sociology & Geography) – Ph.D. in Geography, University of Bucharest, Romania (1997); Master’s and Bachelor’s degree in Geography and Biology, Tiraspol State Pedagogical Institute, Modolva (1986) *World Regions; Geography of Latin America.*


Mr. Jonathan Hulse – (Department of Computer Sciences, Mathematics and Engineering) – Master of Science in Plant Pathology, West Virginia University (2009). *Fundamentals of Math I and II.*

Mr. Mat Keel - (Department of Sociology and Geography) – Master of Arts in Geography, University of California, Los Angeles (2015); B.A. in Geography, University of Massachusetts Amherst (1999). *World Cultural Geography.*

Mr. Ralph Lorenzetti - (Department of Sociology and Geography) – J.D. West Virginia University College of Law (1981); M.S. Civil/Environmental Engineering, Wayne State University (1972); B.S. Civil Engineering, Virginia Tech (1969).*Police Organization and Management.*

Mr. William Loy - (Department of Music) – Conducting MM, University of Missouri – Kansas City (1995); B.A. in Music, Elon College (1990). *Intermediate Keyboard Skills and Advanced Keyboard*
Skills.


**Ms. Frederika Masini-Larson** - (Department of Modern Languages) - B.A. Spanish, Shepherd University (2012). *Elementary Spanish I and II*.

**Mr. Steven Owen** – (Department of Music) – Ph.D. *Percussion Ensemble, Percussion Orchestra*.
