

# Profiles

## Faculty and Staff Professional Activities

Fall 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](mailto:vowens@shepherd.edu).

### School of Natural Sciences and Mathematics

**DR. JASON BEST**, professor of astronomy and astrophysics and 2015-16 American Council on Education Fellow, presented the invited keynote speech "Able to Respond?" at the Third Annual Hagerstown Community College TRiO Upward Bound Recognition Ceremony on August 5. The HCC TRiO: Upward Bound Program is a year-round college-preparatory program made possible through a \$1.25 million, five-year grant from the U.S. Department of Education and serves numerous schools in Washington County, Maryland. Upward Bound's mission is to assist low-income and/or first-generation college-bound high school students in the successful completion of secondary education by preparing them academically as well as socially for enrollment and completion of higher education.

**DR. JOHN C. LANDOLT**, Research Professor Emeritus of Biology, co-authored a research paper titled "New species of Polysphondylium from Madagascar" and has been notified that the paper has been accepted for publication in an upcoming issue of *Mycologia*, an international journal of mycology. This paper describes 13 proposed species of cellular slime mold as being new to science using a combination of morphological and DNA sequence characters to support these new species proposals. A similar project focusing on possible novel species of slime molds from Thailand is ongoing.

**DR. JORDAN MADER**, assistant professor of chemistry, and **DR. SYTIL MURPHY**, assistant professor of physics, were awarded a \$26,250 WISH grant for their Seeding Your Future initiative by the Shepherd University Foundation's Women Investing in Shepherd giving circle. The Seeding Your Future initiative will address the challenge of engaging middle and high school-age students in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) disciplines. The initiative consists of two parts: the Seeding Your Future conference and the Seeding Your Future workshop series. The WISH grant will allow the program to expand the number of students reached, thus increasing the potential to spark interest in the STEM fields and inspire the next generation of STEM graduates.

**DR. CLARISSA MATHEWS**, professor of environmental studies and chair, Institute of Environmental and Physical Sciences, and several Shepherd students and alumni are involved in a research project headed by Dr. Anne L. Nielsen at Rutgers University to find ways to control brown marmorated stink bugs without using chemicals. The project involves 13 farms in seven states, 12 universities, a nonprofit organization, and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). The grant for the research, titled "Whole-farm Management Strategies for Brown Marmorated Stink Bug," came from the USDA Agricultural Research Service. The research locally is taking place in a lab at Shepherd, at two nearby USDA facilities, and at Redbud Farm in Berkeley County, an organic farm operated by Mathews's husband, alumnus Haroun Hallack. This is the third year for the research project. The project is looking at environmentally benign ways to deal with agricultural damage caused by brown marmorated stink bugs, which made their way from Asia in packing crates and were first discovered in this country in the late 1990s in Allentown, Pennsylvania.

**DR. RALPH WOJTOWICZ**, associate professor of mathematics, gave a presentation on Shepherd University's big data analytics capabilities at the NSF-NAVSEA University Summit in Rocket Center, West Virginia, September 22. Also in September, he gave a research presentation at the Computational Category Theory Workshop at the National Institute of Standards and Technologies in Gaithersburg, Maryland. Since May, Wojtowicz has worked as a consultant to PNC Financial Services to support transition of credit-loss statistical models to PNC's next-generation big data architecture. In 2015 he also worked as a consultant to Flexible Plan Investments researching mathematical and computational models of financial markets.

### School of Business and Social Sciences

**DR. GERI CRAWLEY-WOODS**, professor of social work, and **DR. DOUGLAS HORNER**, professor of social work and chair, Department of Social Work, are the co-directors of the social work program's Title IV-E Training Contract from the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources (DHHR) for 2015-16. The amount of the contract is \$201,519. From 1993 to the present, the social work department has raised nearly \$2.7 million for training potential foster parents, staff training for DHHR employees, and assisting students who will work in West Virginia public social services with tuition and living expenses.

**DR. DAVID R. HIXSON**, adjunct professor of geography and anthropology, has a number of upcoming publications related to his research into the cultural geography and archaeological

landscape of Western Yucatan, Mexico. All of these publications were due in part to his companionship with a long-time resident of Shepherdstown, Dr. Bruce H. Dahlin, who passed away before his research was completed.

The first publication is an entry in the *Encyclopedia of the Ancient Maya* covering the breadth of Hixson's and Dahlin's investigations into the ancient Maya trading center of Chunchucmil, Yucatan. The editors of this encyclopedia have commissioned the top scholars in each region of the Maya area to summarize their research, and Hixson was honored to be among those to participate. The remaining Hixson/Dahlin publications are individual chapters in an upcoming edited volume that highlight Dahlin's multidisciplinary focus upon the mercantile landscape of Classic Period western Yucatan. These chapters—"Environmental Heterogeneity in the Chunchucmil Economic Region," "Hinterland Settlement Patterns in the Chunchucmil Economic Region," "Perishable resources produced for exchange in the Chunchucmil Economic Region," and "Connections beyond Chunchucmil"—will be found in the upcoming publication titled *Ancient Maya Commerce: Multidisciplinary Research at Chunchucmil*, University Press of Colorado, Boulder (B. Dahlin and S. Hutson, eds.).

**DR. CHIQUITA HOWARD-BOSTIC**, assistant professor of sociology and criminal justice and chair, Department of Sociology and Geography, was the recipient of the 2015 Outstanding Teacher Award. In March Howard-Bostic received the West Virginia Remote Online Collaborative Knowledge System (WVROCKS) Grant to develop and teach an online Juvenile Delinquency course for R.B.A. degree programs in West Virginia. The manuscript, "Transformational Leadership and Contest Evasion: A Feminist Perspective on Leadership, Power, and Success," was published in volume 2 of Oxford's *Journal of Academic Perspectives* in July. Howard-Bostic also received the Paul and Lisa Welch Endowment Award to host a multiculturalism workshop for 140 faculty, students, and community members at Shepherd October 1. The event was titled "From Diversity to Multiculturalism" and included dinner, a workshop, and screening of Shakti Butler's documentary, *Cracking the Codes: The System of Racial Inequity*.

Howard-Bostic co-published a textbook titled *The Handbook of General Sociology* (978-1-62751-714-0) with Laurence Basirico, Barbara G. Cashion, and J. Ross Eshleman in August. She also published "Corrections in Hungary" in Wiley's *Encyclopedia of Corrections*. In addition, a manuscript, "Survey of Multimedia Assistive Technology as Universal Accommodations: An Academic Disability Services Initiative" written by Howard-Bostic and two Shepherd alumnae, Faroat Andasha and Jessica Smith, was accepted for publication in the *Journal of Virtuality, Education and Science* (Virtualidad, Educación y Ciencia), an international peer-reviewed journal in Córdoba, Argentina.

On November 12 and 13, Howard-Bostic will attend the FACDIS workshop, "The Arts and Politics: Defending—or Challenging—the Status Quo." On December 9, she will provide the keynote address at the 2015 Conference on Education, Leadership, Humanities, and Arts in Washington, D.C., where she will discuss diversity and multiculturalism in higher education. On April 1, 2016, Howard-Bostic and a team of Shepherd University students will present "Assessing Multicultural Workshops: Engaging Faculty, Staff, Students, and the Community" at the 2016 Annual East Coast Colleges Social Science Association (ECCSSA) Conference in Herndon, Virginia.

**DR. ANN MARIE LEGREID**, professor of geography and dean, School of Business and Social Sciences, presented a paper on the virtual

classroom, using web resources and social media to teach urban economic geography at the National Conference on Geography Education, Washington, D.C.

**DR. JOSEPH W. ROBBINS**, associate professor of political science, has finalized a forthcoming publication in the *Taiwan Journal of Democracy*. The study's key findings reveal that the electoral presence of Russia's dominant party, United Russia, has a dampening effect on voter turnout in legislative elections. Robbins has just revised and resubmitted two separate studies that examine the link between domestic political institutions and interstate conflict initiation. These papers are currently under further consideration at the *Cambridge Review of International Affairs* and *Conflict Security and Development*. Beyond these projects, Robbins currently has under review two additional papers and hopes to submit other work by the year's end.

Robbins has continued his grant writing through his continued work with the NEH's Summer Institute program and with a separate grant proposal, submitted on behalf of Pi Sigma Alpha, an organization he advises. The former will be submitted in early 2016 while the latter will be submitted later this fall.

Robbins is scheduled to present a new research project at the upcoming Georgia Political Science Association (GPSA) in November. In this conference paper, Robbins is co-presenting work he has done with a Shepherd University undergraduate student, David Bennett, and another co-author at Georgia Regents University. The conference presentation represents ongoing work into the link between terrorist attacks and their effects on party system stability. He also will potentially serve as discussant at this conference.

Robbins has served as a peer-reviewer for multiple journals during the academic year and was invited to participate in a test for an online software program that is designed to strengthen students' comprehension of political science material and to boost retention in online courses. Robbins also has served as a paid reviewer for publishers such as Cengage, CQ Press, and Pearson over the past six months.

Robbins has begun his second year as the coach of the debate and forensics team, which had its first tournament of the season where the team—one of the largest in attendance at the tournament and one of the largest in Shepherd's recent history—placed third overall. Three different individuals earned first place in their respective categories and the team had two second place, two third place, one fourth place, four fifth place, and five sixth place finishes.

**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 has completed all of the required courses and has passed the comprehensive exam. She continues to work on her dissertation, which entails research in the area of financial statement fraud. During the summer, she attended the Virginia Society of CPAs Educators' Symposium in Richmond, Virginia. Additionally, she is the advisor of the Shepherd University Accounting Club, a member of the Core Curriculum and Graduate Council committees, and a member of the Shepherd University Alumni Association board of directors. She maintains her CPA license and serves as a finance consultant as needed.

## School of Arts and Humanities

**DR. DENIS BERENSCHOT**, associate professor of Spanish, will attend the XVII Congreso Internacional de Literatura Hispánica (Mérida, México, March 9-11, 2016) and present a paper titled "La libertad y la sexualidad en la Cuba Post-revolucionaria." In March 2016 he

will resubmit the CAEP SPA report in order to secure permanent certification for the Spanish education Bachelor of Arts program. From July 23 to August 7, 2016, Berenschot hopes to lead a study abroad trip to Alicante, Spain.

**DR. MARK ANDREW COOK**, associate professor of music, is active as a performer, composer, teacher, and writer. He serves as principal trumpet for the Montgomery Philharmonic Orchestra and performed for the Vereinigte Kirche (the German Church) in Washington, D.C. His *Five Meditations on Saints* was premiered by Mark King, organist and choirmaster at St. John's Episcopal Parish in Hagerstown, Maryland. King, who serves as instructor of organ at Shepherd, will perform additional *Meditations* in the coming concert season.

*Waking*, a song cycle originally commissioned by the West Virginia Music Teachers Association and premiered at Shepherd, has been chosen for performance by World Oceans, a contemporary music ensemble in Atlanta. Recently, while traveling in Europe, Cook completed his *Piano Sonata No. 2 (Apotropaic periapts)*. His aural skills manual, *Dicta Musica*, and his music theory text, *Foundations of Music Theory*, will be released this spring by BVT Publishers.

As a jazz pianist, Cook plays for David Detwiler's White House Band at Blues Alley, The New State Theater, and Bethesda Blues and Jazz Club, as well as numerous concert venues throughout the East Coast. Detwiler, formerly of the U.S. Army Blues, is the principal trumpet for Wolf Trap and the National Symphony Pops. The group includes former and currently serving members of the Armed Forces. The group will return to Blues Alley and the State this season. Cook also is the pianist/organist for the Mike Kamuf Little Big Band, which has played at Blues Alley, Bethesda Blues and Jazz Club, and East Coast Jazz Festival and performs regularly at The Music Café. Some of Cook's jazz compositions are featured in the group.

Cook is often the pianist for Chris Vadala (jazz studies director at the University of Maryland and a member of the Smithsonian Jazz Orchestra and Chuck Mangione Quartet). In January 2016, Cook will join Vadala, Mike Kamuf, bassist David Marsh, and drummer Ronnie Shaw for a special concert as part of the St. John's Concert Series. Shaw, Shepherd jazz drum instructor, and Marsh are the "rhythm section" for the Three Mo' Tenors.

**DR. BETTY ELLZEY**, professor of English and chair, Department of English and Modern Languages, directed Hrothsvita's *Sapientia*, which she translated from Latin, at the Festival of Early Drama in Toronto, June 6 and 7. *Sapientia* is one of six plays written by the 10th-century Saxon canoness.

**DR. DAVID B. GORDON**, professor of history and acting chair, Department of History, has an article titled "A Tale of Two Diplomats: He Fengshan, Sugihara Chiune and Jewish Efforts to Flee Nazi Europe" appearing in the fall 2015 issue of *Education About Asia*, a journal for instructors seeking to increase the Asia content of their courses. Gordon also gave a presentation on this topic at the International Forum for Asian History and Asian Studies in Athens, Greece, June 29. To assist with the travel expenses for participation in the conference, Gordon received a mini-grant of \$500 from Shepherd's Professional Development Committee and a travel assistance grant of \$500 from the West Virginia Humanities Council. Gordon presented on the topic October 13 at Shepherd's Faculty Research Forum.

**ALAN B. GIBSON**, adjunct instructor in modern languages, published *The Dead of Winter*, a thriller and his first novel, in 2015. In

the novel, four young professionals from Washington, D.C., visit a family-friendly farm to pick apples and pumpkins and enjoy hayrides and trips through a corn maze, but they pick the wrong weekend, and mayhem ensues. (Gibson and Dr. Scott Beard own a destination farm in Harpers Ferry). Writing and publishing a novel has been a lifelong ambition of his, and Gibson is working on the prequel and sequel. His books are written under the name of A.B.Gibson.

In November **DR. HEIDI M. HANRAHAN**, associate professor of English, will present a paper, "A mash-up world': Hybridity and Storytelling in Ozeki's *A Tale for the Time Being*," at the Society for the Study of American Women Writers (SSAWW) conference in Philadelphia. She will chair a session at the conference and facilitate a discussion on the academic job search at the mentoring breakfast. Her review of David Dowling's *Literary Partnerships and the Marketplace* appeared in the most recent issue of *South Atlantic Review*.

**DR. MATTHEW J. KUSHIN**, assistant professor of communication, presented a co-authored study, "Hootsuite University: Equipping Academics and Future PR Professionals for Social Media Success," at the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication in San Francisco, California. The paper won the top teaching paper award in the Public Relations Division of the conference. He is a co-author on a book chapter published in *Communication for the Curious: Why Study Communication?* The chapter explores computer-mediated communication and was written by the faculty in his department.

This past summer he served as the communication advisor to the Optometric Extension Program Foundation in Timonium, Maryland, providing communication strategy guidance for internal and external audiences.

Kushin's COMM 322 Social Media class is participating in the Hootsuite University program, where students learn to use the Hootsuite social media dashboard software and earn a software proficiency certification from Hootsuite. His COMM 470 Strategic Campaigns class is working on a publicity campaign for a local nonprofit, Charles Town Now.

**DR. JAMES A. LEWIN**, professor of English, had his essay "Algren's Chicago: City of the Rusted Heart" published in *Midwestern Miscellany* XLIII (Spring/Fall 2015). Another essay, "Bob Dylan's Midwestern Roots," has been accepted for publication in *MidAmerica 2015*. His paper proposal "Negotiations of Cressida" was accepted for presentation at the 39th annual Ohio Valley Shakespeare Conference held in Bowling Green, Ohio, in October.

**SHANNON MCCARTHY**, visiting professor of graphic design, presented her paper "FRESH Meat: 10 Lessons from a Novice Design Instructor" at UCDA Design Summit in Brookings, South Dakota, this summer. She also completed the Shepherd Online Teaching Certificate and worked on several freelance design projects, including designing an OBE Organics event logo for Heward Communications; ASNR mobile and tablet layout for OptfnlTy.com; kid's menu and promotional for Secret Garden Party for Clyde's Restaurant Group in Washington, D.C.; water bottle design for Urban Investment Partners in Washington, D.C.; logo design for Glenn's Electric; and several wedding announcement, save the date, invitation, response card, and program designs.

**DR. CARRIE MESSENGER**, assistant professor of English, will present her paper "Storytellers from the Golden Age: Cristian Mungiu, the Romanian New Wave, and Collective Authorship" at the South Atlantic Modern Language Association Conference in Durham,

North Carolina, in November. She has an essay about appearing on Soviet television as a teenager forthcoming in the literary magazine *Harpur Palate*. Her short story "Reports from the Village of C," which she presented last spring at the Shepherd Faculty Research Forum, is forthcoming in the literary magazine *Pleiades*.

**DR. TIMOTHY K. NIXON**, associate professor in the Department of English and Modern Languages, has completed work on his book-length manuscript, *Selected Short Works by Klaus Mann*, which is being published by Peter Lang of New York and is expected for release in the first half of 2016. Dr. Nixon edited the collection of works by this German-American author, and he and his colleague, **DR. RACHEL KRANTZ**, associate professor of French, worked together on the translations of two German pieces. In addition, Dr. Nixon's essay "Immigration, Ethnicity, and Race in Alice Dunbar-Nelson's 'Tony's Wife'" has been accepted for publication and will be appearing in an upcoming issue of *The Journal of the Short Story in English*.

**DR. JAMES PATE**, visiting assistant professor of English, has a book of essays forthcoming from Action Books in spring 2016. The title is *Flowers Among the Carrion: Essays on the Gothic in Contemporary Poetry*.

An essay by **DR. SYLVIA BAILEY SHURBUTT**, professor of English, titled "The Fiction of Homer Hickam, West Virginia's Master Storyteller" will be published by the Scribner's American Writers series, Volume XXVII, edited by Jay Parini. The volume will come out in early 2016.

Shurbutt and **CHARLES BLACHFORD**, director of grant support, received word that their \$118,000 NEH Summer Seminar Grant for Teachers proposal had been fully funded. The NEH grant is the second for Shepherd University, the only institution in the state to win such a grant. Teachers from across the country will come to Shepherd in July 2016 to participate in the seminar, which interfaces with the Contemporary American Theater Festival. Poet Frank X Walker and playwright/fiction writer Silas House will participate as artists-in-residence, along with Rachael Meads, Adam Booth, and CATF actors. NEH participants will explore the topic "Voices from the Misty Mountains: Appalachian Literature and Culture." Shurbutt, past president of the Appalachian Studies Association, and Meads are currently spearheading local arrangements for the International Appalachian Studies Conference, which will take place at Shepherd March 17-20, 2016. A local arrangements committee of university and community members is planning the conference. Students and colleagues interested in the conference may submit proposals at [www.appalachianstudies.org/](http://www.appalachianstudies.org/).

**DR. JOHN E. STEALEY III**, Distinguished Professor Emeritus of History, published an illustrated op-ed piece in the *Sunday Gazette-Mail* (Charleston, W.Va.), March 8, 2015, pp. 1C, 4C, titled "Free At Last: W.Va.'s Tortuous Road to Emancipation." The article, highlighting the 150th anniversary of emancipation, describes the complicated process of attainment in the Mountain State 10 months before national ratification of the Thirteenth Amendment.

In May Stealey delivered an opening address at the Jefferson County Museum of the Old Charles Town Library, Inc., in its celebration of 50 years of existence. He spoke on the topic of whether West Virginia entered the Union as a free or slave state. He emphasized the place of Jefferson County in the emancipation process.

The West Virginia University Press will reprint in paperback Stealey's volume *The Antebellum Kanawha Salt Business and Western Markets* in its West Virginia and Appalachia series in 2016. The University Press of Kentucky published the original book in 1993.

It was the first university press monograph written by a Shepherd University professor in the institution's history. Stealey has spent the summer composing a new introduction for the work.

**ERIN BONE STEELE**, adjunct professor of theater, recently directed Oscar Wilde's *The Importance of Being Earnest* for the Chesapeake Shakespeare Company for its inaugural season in its permanent, award-winning theater space in Baltimore, Maryland. She also is a CSC company ensemble member. She followed this with directing the farce *On the Razzle* by Tom Stoppard for Silver Spring Stage in Maryland. She is presently a board member at Pallas Theatre Collective, part of the TheatreWashington network and a participating theater in the Washington, D.C., Women's Voices Theater Festival, where a new play *Clover*, the Clover Adams story, will be performed this fall. The original musical *Code Name: Cynthia*, based on the true story of an American spy and developed through Pallas Theatre Collective's workshops and readings, was performed at the Kennedy Center's 14th annual Page to Stage Festival in early September.

**DR. CHRISTY WENGER**, assistant professor of English and director of writing and rhetoric, published a book, *Yoga Minds, Writing Bodies: Contemplative Writing Pedagogy*, in 2015. The book examines the role of mindfulness and contemplative practices like yoga and meditation for the writing classroom. The book, published by WAC Clearinghouse/Parlor Press, argues for the inclusion of Eastern-influenced contemplative education in the field of writing studies as a means of exploring the active engagement writers maintain with their bodies throughout the composing process. Wenger presented findings from her book at the September Faculty Research Forum at Shepherd. Wenger also published an article, "Feminism, Mindfulness and the Small University jWPA," in the national peer-reviewed journal *WPA: Writing Program Administration Journal*.

Wenger received national recognition with the award of a competitive external grant from the Council for Writing Program Administrators (CWPA) in 2014-15 and presented the results of this grant at the CWPA 2015 summer conference. Wenger's grant funded a learning community of contingent faculty of first-year writing program instructors for one full academic year. Instructors were supported to learn how to use technology and multimodal pedagogy in their writing classes.

Working with **DR. REBECCA MERCADO**, associate professor of education, Wenger also helped to bring a \$54,772 grant to the university under the Improving Teacher Quality grant program from the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission. For the grant, "The Elementary Writing Project: Enhancing 1st-5th Grade Writing Instruction," Wenger held a weeklong summer workshop for elementary teachers in selected Berkeley County schools.

Wenger was also elected to serve as treasurer for the national organization the Assembly for the Expanded Perspectives on Learning (AEPL), a division of the National Council for the Teachers of English (NCTE). She also serves as an AEPL board member and the editor of AEPL's website, which features reviewed academic writing from its constituents.

## School of Education and Professional Studies

**DR. LAURA CLAYTON**, professor of nursing education, received a three-year, \$1.4 million grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration to develop an interprofessional collaborative practice environment for nursing, medical, and allied health professional students. The grant, titled "CHOICES Program: Changing Health Outcomes for Patients with Diabetes through an Interprofessional Collaborative Practice Environment at Shenandoah

Valley Medical System,” will enable students from Shepherd and the West Virginia University School of Medicine Eastern Division to collaborate with healthcare professionals in caring for diabetic patients at Shenandoah Community Health Center in Martinsburg. The program will be an interprofessional collaborative that involves nursing, nutrition, exercise physiology, sociology, and psychology students from Shepherd.

**DR. MARY E. HANCOCK**, assistant professor of nursing, completed her doctoral studies at the University of Phoenix obtaining a doctor of philosophy in nursing. She presented her dissertation topic, “Male Registered Nurses and Employment Choice,” as a poster presentation at the national American Assembly of Men in Nursing in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Her dissertation topic abstract was accepted for a poster presentation at the Association of Women’s Health, Obstetric, and Neonatal Nurses (AWHONN) Virginia Section Conference in Virginia Beach, Virginia. Hancock continues to serve as an AWHONN Virginia Section leader representing the Northern Virginia and Eastern West Virginia Panhandle area. She also maintained her national nursing certification in inpatient obstetrical nursing.

**DR. REBECCA MERCADO**, associate professor of education, was awarded a \$55,000 Improving Teacher Quality grant by the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission to provide professional development in writing instruction for Berkeley County 1st through 5th grade teachers. In addition to developing greater expertise in writing, the project connects writing instruction for elementary teachers with their mentoring of Shepherd elementary teacher candidates to extend the impact of their instruction in writing. Mercado facilitated a weeklong workshop this summer and coordinated work on multimedia presentations to be available to Berkeley County teachers and Shepherd education students after the project has ended. **DR. CHRISTY WENGER**, assistant professor of English and director of writing and rhetoric in the Department of English and Modern Languages, collaborated on this project by presenting sessions on the writing process during the workshop in July and a follow-up session in September. Also participating in the project was **DR. LEANN JOHNSON**, assistant professor of education. Johnson presented a session on mentoring to help support classroom teachers in their work with Shepherd teacher candidates. The Elementary Writing Project has resulted in 26 Berkeley County teachers piloting *Units of Study in Opinion, Information, and Narrative Writing* by Lucy Calkins for their specific grade levels during the 2015-16 school year.

In July Mercado and Johnson co-presented “Dig Deep: Individualized Project-Based Exploration and Application of Reading Methods” in a meeting of the Professors of Literacy Education at the International Literacy Association annual conference in St. Louis, Missouri.

Mercado also collaborated with Susan Zigler ’76, a Jefferson County elementary school principal and Shepherd alumna, to present a workshop session for teachers at the annual Literacy Leaders conference for teachers on the Shepherd University campus in April. The presentation was titled “Act It Out! Bringing Books to Life.”

**DR. BARBARA MOTT**, assistant professor of nursing education, received a doctor of philosophy degree, nursing science, from New Mexico State University, Las Cruces, New Mexico, in December 2014. She presented “Measurement of Swanson’s Theory of Caring with Primiparous Mothers” at the Western Institute of Nursing’s 48th Annual Nursing Research Conference, Albuquerque,

New Mexico, April 24, and made a poster presentation “Predictors of Maternal Confidence with Primiparous Mothers” at the Council for the Advancement of Nursing Science 2015 Special Topics Conference in Washington, D.C., October 14.

Mott’s manuscript, “Measurement of Swanson’s Theory of Caring Using Primiparous Mothers,” has been accepted by the peer-reviewed journal *International Journal for Human Caring*, Volume 20, Issue 2, Spring 2016. Her research in progress is exploring additional predictors of maternal confidence in primiparous mothers.

## Administration

**MONA KISSEL**, advancement associate, was appointed to serve on the presidential search committee in spring 2015. She was elected to serve a two-year term on the Shepherd University Board of Governors beginning July 1 as the classified staff representative.

Kissel attended the Advisory Council of Classified Employees Leadership Conference in Flatwoods, June 15-17, and the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission Summit in Charleston, August 7-8.

**JIM KLEIN**, director of the Martinsburg Center, was named Volunteer of the Year by the Martinsburg-Berkeley County Chamber of Commerce at its 89th annual dinner celebration November 4 for his dedication to serving the community. Klein volunteers for many community boards and organizations, including the United Way Relationship Development Committee, Berkeley County Business Partnership, Berkeley Community Pride, Rotary Club of Martinsburg, and the Eastern Panhandle Society for Human Resource Management.

**CECELIA MASON**, staff writer in the Office of University Communications, has been elected to a three-year term on the Friends of West Virginia Public Broadcasting board. The 30-member board consists of representatives from communities where West Virginia Public Broadcasting radio and television stations are located. Members serve as ambassadors for WVPB in their communities and attend quarterly board meetings. Prior to joining the Friends Board, Mason was the Eastern Panhandle reporter/producer at Shepherd University’s bureau for the statewide network for nearly 24 years.

**SONYA SHOLLEY**, administrative coordinator for the president, has obtained the organizational management (OM) specialty certification through the International Association of Administrative Professionals (IAAP). The OM specialty certification focuses on increased knowledge, skills, and abilities for administrative professionals in the areas of organizational planning, advanced communication, advanced administration, and team skills. Sholley sat for the 3½-hour scenario-based exam March 6 at Pearson Professional Center in Columbia, Maryland. The post-exam certification process requires recertification every five years and can be obtained through continuing education and receiving other certification.