

Profiles

Shepherd University Faculty and Staff Professional Activities

School of Business of Social Sciences

DR. AART HOLTSLAG, assistant professor of political science, was elected the president of the International Studies Association South Chapter for the year 2017 during the association's annual conference held October 14 and 15 at Shepherd. Dr. Holtslag served as conference program chair.

DR. CHIQUITA HOWARD-BOSTIC, assistant professor of sociology and chair of the Department of Sociology and Geography, was appointed to a three-year term as a board member of the American Civil Liberties Union of West Virginia in May.

On June 9, the Legislature of Erie County, New York, shared a resolution to recognize her for research on transformational leadership and work with community-based youth programs and nonprofit organizations that serve marginalized populations. The Buffalo (New York) Chapter of the NAACP presented the resolution on June 12 at the 50th Annual Medgar Evers Dinner where Dr. Howard-Bostic was the featured speaker.

She presented the keynote address, "Education Across Generations," at the Advena World International Conference on Leadership, Ethics, and Urban Issues in Washington, D.C., on September 15. Dr. Howard-Bostic introduced a transformational leadership strategy to address disenfranchised generational socialization processes.

From September 27 to 29, Dr. Howard-Bostic led the SU Instagram Healthy Relationships Project to promote healthy relationships, freedom, respect, happiness, equality, and safety using Instagram @shepherd. To promote campus advocacy, she and **DR. JOE ROBBINS**, associate professor of political science and chair of the Department of Political Science, launched the Red Flag Campaign. Members of the campus community decorated red flags as warning signs for dating violence and placed them on campus in front of Shaw Hall to showcase campus action.

Dr. Howard-Bostic was a facilitator and panelist for the event, Dialogue on Race Relations: Challenges and Ways Forward, on October 10. Strategic leaders and participants raised awareness and shared promising initiatives about challenges that inhibit constructive race-related discourse. On November 5, in the Storer Ballroom following a viewing of the film, *He Named Her Malala*, Dr. Howard-Bostic will facilitate a discussion about a collective

role educating girls across the globe.

Dr. Howard-Bostic completed a West Virginia University Quality Matters training course, Improve Your Online Course, on October 21 to prepare online courses for an official Quality Matters review. She was selected to develop and teach a COPLAC Digital course as part of a Mellon Foundation/Council of Public Liberal Arts Colleges (COPLAC) grant. In spring 2017, she will co-teach the multicampus synchronous online course, Digital History and Community Engagement, with Dr. Tina Holmes-Davis of Georgia College. Two Shepherd students will be nominated to enroll in the course.

Dr. Howard-Bostic was selected to participate in the Second Annual Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL) Fellows Program sponsored by West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission. She will be trained to implement online courses with an international partner during a six-week online COIL course. She will attend the annual COIL Conference in New York next semester.

DR. ANN MARIE LEGREID, professor of geography and dean of the School of Business and Social Sciences, was a keynote speaker at the annual meeting of Phi Beta Delta, Honor Society for International Scholars, held in June in Denver, Colorado. Her presentation was titled "Potholes and Strategies on the Road to Campus Internationalization." She was subsequently elected to the Society's Board of Directors. She serves as vice president for the Southeast Region. Shepherd's Theta Epsilon Chapter is the first for West Virginia; there are more than 180 chapters worldwide. The Honor Society meeting was held in conjunction with the NAFSA meeting. The highlight of the dual event was the presentation by 2014 Nobel Peace Prize winner, Kailash Satyarthi, who spoke of his work on human rights for children (the 2014 award was shared with Malala Yousafzai).

DR. LINDSEY LEVITAN, assistant professor of psychology, and a former student had a paper published in a peer-reviewed journal: Levitan, L. C. and Verhulst, B. (2016) "Conformity in groups: The effects of others' views on expressed attitudes and attitude change," *Political Behavior*, 38, 277-315. *Political Behavior* is an interdisciplinary journal focused on psychological, economic, and



Dr. Aart Holtslag



Dr. Chiquita
Howard-Bostic



Dr. Ann Marie Legreid



Dr. Lindsey Levitan



Dr. Stephanie
Slocum-Schaffer

sociological perspectives in explaining political behavior.

Her recent presentations include “Attitudinally heterogeneous social networks decrease attitude strength by decreasing perceived knowledge,” a poster presented at the Association for Psychological Science Annual Meeting, Chicago, in May and “Conformity and attitudes: disentangling influences on conformity and persistent attitude change,” a paper, with B. Verhulst, presented at the Eastern Psychological Association Annual Meeting, New York, in March. As part of the Faculty Research Forum on September 14, she presented a look at the psychology behind how voters form their political attitudes titled “Social Motivations and Political Attitudes: Could Peer Pressure Be a Good Thing?”

DR. STEPHANIE SLOCUM-SCHAFER, associate professor of political science and co-coordinator of Women’s Studies, gave an invited lecture to a group of political leaders from India on Shepherd’s campus on May 10. The visit and the lecture, which focused on the structure and politics of American government, was organized by the U.S. Department of State’s International Visitor Leadership Program’s “SCP India: U.S. Government: A Project for Political Leaders.”

CINDY VANCE, assistant professor of accounting, continued her doctoral studies at Northcentral University to obtain a Doctor of Philosophy degree 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, gave a presentation on Fraud Prevention and Detection Tips to the Martinsburg-Berkeley County Chamber of Commerce, and presented her dissertation research proposal, “The Effects of Auditor Certification, Professional Skepticism, and the Presence of Fraud on Fraud Risk Assessment Performance,” at the Mid-Atlantic American Accounting Association meeting in Morgantown. Additionally, she is the advisor of the Shepherd University Accounting Club, a member of the Core Curriculum, Scholarships and Awards, 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.

DR. YUYING XIE, associate professor of economics and finance, recently published a co-authored scholarly research article in the *International Journal of Technology Management* titled “Strategic Transformation through Innovation in Emerging Industry: A Case Study.” He also published a co-authored research article in the *Journal of Customer Needs and Solutions* titled “Coordinating R&D, Product Positioning, and Pricing Strategy: A Duopoly Model.” In addition, he published a co-authored research article in the *Journal of Innovation: Management, Policy & Practice* titled

“How Latecomers Innovate through Technology Modularization: Evidence from China’s Shanzhai Industry.”

In spring 2016, Dr. Xie received a one-semester sabbatical leave for scholarly research. In addition to the published articles, he is currently co-writing a research paper in finance titled “International Diversification and Cost of Capital.”

School of Education and Professional Studies

DR. MARY E. HANCOCK, assistant professor of nursing education, completed three textbook chapter reviews for FA Davis: “Intrapartum at Risk” and “Sexually-Transmitted Diseases” for *Essential Nursing Content and Practice Questions for Maternal-Newborn* by Whitworth & McMullan and “RAAS Mediators” for *Pharmacology for Nursing: Partners in Therapeutic Care* by D’Amato & Sherry.

Her article, titled “Focus Group Data Saturation: A New Approach,” was accepted as a paper presentation at the Qualitative Report Eighth Annual Conference in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, in January 2017. Dr. Hancock will be attending the National Association of Women’s Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses (AWHONN) Leadership Conference in Washington, D.C., in November as part of her role on the national AWHONN Section Advisory Committee.

She is currently working with Valley Health Winchester Medical Center in the development of an RN Residency Program. Dr. Hancock was nominated for the 2016 American Association of Critical-Care Nurses Dissertation of the Year Award.

DR. DANIELLE HOLLAR, clinical faculty in the Department of Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Sports and project director of Shepherd’s USDA SNAP-Ed project, had an article published in the June 2016 issue of *Parks & Recreation*, *The Official Publication of the National Recreation and Park Association*, <http://ezine.parksand recreation.org/HTML5/NRPA-Parks-Recreation-Magazine-June-2016>. It describes some of the results of the nutrition literacy program she designed for a nationwide summer camp and after-school programming.

DR. BARBARA MOTT, assistant professor of nursing education, reviewed abstract proposals last spring for the Western Institute of Nursing’s 49th Annual Nursing Research Conference. In April, Dr. Mott served as faculty advisor and attended the annual convention of the National Student Nurses Association in Orlando with four Shepherd University nursing students.

Her manuscript, “Measurement of Swanson’s Theory of Caring Using Primiparous Mothers,” was published in July by the peer-reviewed journal *International Journal for Human Caring*, Volume 20, Issue 2. She has submitted another manuscript, “The Relationship between Nurse Caring Behaviors, Selected Maternal Factors, and Maternal Confidence,” for publication in the *Journal of Obstetric, Gynecologic & Neonatal Nursing*.

Dr. Mott completed research which explored additional pre-



Cindy Vance



Dr. Danielle Hollar



Dr. Barbara Mott



Dr. Elizabeth Viens Rini



Dr. Barbara A. Spencer

dictors of maternal confidence in primiparous mothers, but instead found predictors of maternal depression. She presented these findings on September 15 at the Council for the Advancement of Nursing Science 2016 Special Topics Conference in Washington, D.C. A representative from the National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR), a division of the National Institutes of Health, was highly interested in one of the findings regarding biomarkers and is actively working with Dr. Mott and Shepherd University to provide NINR grant funding to further expand her research.

DR. ELIZABETH VIENS RINI, assistant professor of nursing education, published “The Development and Psychometric Analysis of the Women’s Experience in Childbirth Survey” in the *Journal of Nursing Measurement*, Volume 24, Number 2, 2016, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1891/1061-3749.24.2.268>.

DR. BARBARA A. SPENCER, assistant professor of nursing education, received an educational grant from the National Cancer Institute in conjunction with the American Association of Colleges of Nursing and City of Hope Cancer Treatment and Research Center. The educational grant provided formal training and tools to incorporate cancer and end-of-life care into Shepherd’s Doctor of Nursing Practice program. This semester, she is teaching the first doctoral class for Adult Health Care-Gerontology.

In July, Dr. Spencer went on her second medical mission trip to Guatemala. As a nurse practitioner, she saw patients in the outlying mountainous regions of Guatemala City where they have no regular health care. Two physicians, another nurse practitioner, and Spencer saw more than 1,550 patients for five days (averaging more than 75 patients a day). They were accompanied by nurses, high school students, volunteers, and translators. The patients presented the team with a variety of acute and chronic illnesses, including asthma and other respiratory conditions, heart disease, diabetes, arthritis, depression, and gastrointestinal problems. Due to the area and poor sanitation, many families were treated for parasitic infections. International healthcare provides a challenge in that the culture needs to be studied in order to provide care that will be understood and accepted by the population. Additionally, ethical and legal implications related to the healthcare provider-patient relationship need to be considered in order to provide culturally competent care.

School of Arts and Humanities

DR. KEITH ALEXANDER, assistant professor of history, addressed the Sharpsburg Historical Society in March. The presentation, titled “History from the ground up: What our cemeteries tell us about our past,” was based on his experiences with cemetery preservation and research as part of his historic preservation classes over the last decade at Shepherd. Dr. Alexander argued that cemeteries spark local communities to investigate their past. That investigation might involve compiling data on the stones for quantitative

research, or doing more research in newspapers or other sources to find out more about the stones. Regardless, in order to begin answering these questions, those sources need to be preserved. Together with historic buildings, cemeteries are our communities’ most tangible links to history and deserve to be preserved for the future.

Dr. Alexander also supervised a record number of historic preservation and public history student internships over the summer. Sixteen students worked to complete 400-hour internships in a variety of field settings, ranging from house museums to archives to national parks. The students will draw on their internship experiences to write and present capstones during their senior year.

In June, Dr. Alexander attended the West Virginia Great Teacher Seminar, held annually in North Branch State Park near Cairo. Dr. Alexander joined approximately 25 other teachers across the state for a four-day series of workshops focusing on strategies to enhance undergraduate teaching.

Dr. Alexander completed oversight in July on a \$15,000 grant from the West Virginia Division of Culture and History to create plans and specifications to turn the Entler-Weltzheimer House into a center for historic preservation and public history education. The center would help inform both Shepherd students and community members about best practices in historic preservation and public history.

DR. BENJAMIN BANKHURST, assistant professor of history, assisted in organizing the conference Pastoralism and Modernity in the Southern Mountains: A Centenary Symposium on Cecil Sharp’s 1916 Appalachian Journey, along with the English Folk Dance and Song Society (EFDSS), in London in July. The conference focused on the work of Cecil Sharp, an English folklorist and musician who traveled to southern Appalachia 100 years ago to document and record the region’s music.

CHRISTIAN BENEFIEL, assistant professor of art, had a solo exhibit of his sculpture at the Black Rock Center for the Arts in Germantown, Maryland, in October. A review of his exhibition appeared in the October 14 issue of the *Washington Post*.

DR. JAMES J. BROOMALL, assistant professor of history and director of the George Tyler Moore Center for the Study of the Civil War, along with Peter S. Carmichael and Jill Oglie Titus, co-edited the June 2016 edition of *Civil War History*, vol. 62, no. 2, <https://muse.jhu.edu/issue/33400>. The issue was dedicated to the future of Civil War history, and the trio co-authored the journal’s introduction and co-edited the essays within.

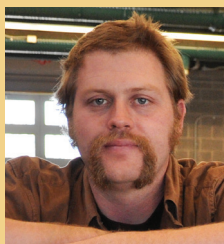
DR. RACHEL CARLSON, assistant professor of music and director of choral activities, performed in the 2016 Oregon Bach Festival in Eugene, Oregon. Performed works included J.S. Bach’s *Mass in B minor*, *Magnificat*, and *Komm, Jesu, Komm*, the premiere of James MacMillan’s *European Requiem and Alleluia*, Frank Martin’s *Mass*



Dr. Keith Alexander



Dr. Benjamin Bankhurst



Christian Benefiel



Dr. James Broomall



Dr. Rachel Carlson

for *Double Choir*, and Johannes Brahms' *A German Requiem*. On September 23, Dr. Carlson conducted scenes from Giuseppe Verdi's opera, *Rigoletto*, with artistic director **DR. SCOTT BEARD**, professor of music, associate provost, and dean of graduate studies, professional soloists, and professional orchestra for the Washington Opera Society's Gala at the Woman's National Democratic Club in Washington, D.C.

DR. MARK ANDREW COOK, associate professor of music, received a professional development mini-grant resulting in the pressing and distribution of the CD *Mark Andrew Cook Jazz Group Live at St. Johns Episcopal Church*, now available through CDBaby and Amazon, and soon to be offered on iTunes. New music was composed for this concert (four pieces). In addition to Cook, musicians include saxophonist Chris Vadala (UMCP and Chuck Mangione, etc.), Mike Kamuf (arranger and trumpeter), and David Marsh and Ronnie Shaw (the latter two from the Three Mo' Tenors and Shepherd jazz faculty). The CD was recorded and mastered by a former student who has recorded Grammy winners.

While on sabbatical during the fall, Dr. Cook has completed *Dicta Jazz: A Jazz Piano Manual and Keyboard Exercises*, published by Jamey Aebersold Jazz; composed *Symphony for Wind Ensemble*, dedicated to **DR. SCOTT ALLEN HIPPENSTEEL**, associate professor of music/director of bands, and published by Subito Music Distributors; composed *Sundogs, A Concert Overture for Orchestra*, dedicated to Dr. Gerald Francis Muller, published by Subito Music Distributors; composed Piano Sonata No. 2; published *Foundations of Music Theory: Fundamental Concepts in the Language of Music*, BVT Publishing, which was adopted by the music department for Music Theory courses; published *Dicta Musica: An Aural Skills Manual*, BVT Publishing, also adopted for Music Theory courses; and completed *Meditation Upon Saints for Organ* (five pieces), under review for publication and premiered in June by **MARK KING**, music adjunct faculty member.

DR. BETTY ELLZEY, professor of English and chair of the Department of English and Modern Languages, and **DR. JASON MCKAHAN**, associate professor of mass communications and chair of the Department of Mass Communications, presented a film adaptation of the 16th-century play, Lewis Wager's *The Life and Repentance of Mary Magdalene*, in Durham, England, at the International Society for Medieval Theatre triennial conference in July. Ellzey, McKahan, members of the Rude Mechanicals Medieval and Renaissance Players, and mass communications majors produced the film.

SONYA EVANISKO, professor of art and coordinator of the painting and drawing program, served as a fine artist juror for Tamarack's gallery in Beckley. After the daylong jurying process, she met individually with the artists to provide critical feedback on their professional practices.

Evanisko presented a public discussion on her sabbatical work

of sculptural contemporary kokedamas as part of the Arts of Japan at the Washington County (Maryland) Museum of Fine Arts. She also created an installation of the work for Shepherdstown's Back Alley Garden Tour this past summer. The kokedama work was highlighted in a Scarborough Society presentation on November 1. Evanisko completed a work for the Bodice Project, a sculptural exhibition that focused on breast cancer awareness and healing through the arts during October.

Evanisko organized a participatory experience for a group of art students with the artist Foon Sham at the Washington County Museum of Fine Arts. They assisted in creating elements for the installation work *Sea of Hope* that celebrates the memory of people who have died due to cancer. The installation will be on display until January 2017. She took a group of art students to the Mountain Heritage Arts Festival in September to meet with West Virginia artists and to explore career opportunities in the arts. In October, Evanisko hosted guest artist Fran Skiles, a contemporary painting/collage artist. The students of Evanisko's Advanced and Capstone level painting courses will participate in a weeklong painting activity in response to Skiles's prompts and hands-on workshop with the students. Some of the work that will be produced from the workshop will be available for sale at the Department of Contemporary Art and Theater's December 2 Art Market.

In the community, Evanisko served as a juror on the American Conservation Film Festival (ACFF) film selection committee. The committee reviewed conservation-themed films from around the world and selected the work that was highlighted in the October film festival. The ACFF is dedicated to promoting outstanding films and the arts to educate and inspire people to become engaged in conservation.

DR. DAVID GONZOL, professor of music, and his wife Karen Gonzol published *For the Least of These: 50 Years of the Virginia Mennonite Relief Sale: A Photographic History: 1967–2016* in September. Founded in 1967 in Augusta County, Virginia, by Amish and Mennonite leaders, the Augusta Relief Sale was begun as an effort to raise relief funds for Mennonite Central Committee, to aid in disaster, prevent violence, and promote peace. One continuing popular feature has been the auctioning of a wide variety of items, including handmade quilts that have sold for hundreds and often thousands of dollars. Renamed to its current title in 1995 and moved in 1999 to the Rockingham County Fairgrounds, the sale has raised more than \$6.5 million. With more than 350 pictures from 42 of the 50 years of the sale, the 81-page book is part of the 50th anniversary sale. The cost of printing the 750 copies has been underwritten by QMT Windchimes, and all proceeds will go to the sale. Karen Gonzol is listed as the author and David Gonzol as the copy editor, though he shared some writing responsibilities.

DR. DAVID GORDON, professor of history and chair of the Department of History, attended the Pearl S. Buck Living Gateway Con-



Dr. Betty Ellzey



Sonya Evanisko



Dr. David Gonzol



Dr. David Gordon



Dr. Heidi Hanrahan

ference held at West Virginia University, September 11-13, where he presented “‘Always in Love with Great Ends’: Pearl S. Buck’s Response to Sun Yatsen and His Nationalist Revolution.” Nobel Prize-winning author Pearl S. Buck was a West Virginia native.

DR. HEIDI M. HANRAHAN, associate professor of English, had her essay, “Native American Autobiography and Realism in the Writings of Sarah Winnemucca,” published in the *GALE Researcher Volume of American Literature*.

DR. MATTHEW J. KUSHIN, associate professor of mass communications, recently presented a co-authored paper titled “A Linkage of Online Political Comments, Perceived Civility, and Political Participation,” at the annual conference of the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication held in Minneapolis. He traveled to Indianapolis in October to present on social media and education at the Public Relations Society of America Educator’s Academy Super Saturday.

Dr. Kushin is working on research for the upcoming 2016 presidential election with funds earned via a professional development stipend grant from the Shepherd University Foundation. He is serving as co-chair of the Social Media Committee of the Public Relations Division of the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication.

This past summer, Dr. Kushin traveled to Sydney, Australia, where he served as the director of the ICBO One app and Global Digital Strategy, assisting the International Congress of Behavioral Optometry (ICBO) with communication strategy and the implementation of a mobile social conference app.

His Strategic Campaigns class is working with a small local startup business, assisting that business with its promotional efforts. His Social Media class is participating in Hootsuite Academy certification, an online education program in the Hootsuite social media dashboard software. His Public Relations Principles class is participating in the CisionPoint University certification plan, an online education program in the Cision public relations software. Students who complete certification in either of these software applications can use this as a résumé builder.

DR. JASON GRANT MCKAHAN, associate professor of mass communications and chair of the Department of Mass Communications, **DR. MATTHEW J. KUSHIN**, associate professor of mass communications, and **DR. KEVIN WILLIAMS**, professor of mass communications, presented a workshop on the development of communication and media in the internet age to a group of 20 media executives from Guangxi Province, China, at Kaplan University’s Hagerstown campus on October 12. Guangxi is one of China’s special economic development zones, and the visit of this group of media executives included an overview of university trends in communication education and facility tours at the *Herald Mail*, a local television studio, and Penn State campuses.

McKahan and **DR. BETTY ELLZEY**, professor of English and chair of the Department of English and Modern Languages, visited Durham, England, in July to attend the International Society for Medieval Theater triennial conference, where they screened a film adaptation of Lewis Wager’s *Life and Repentance of Marie Magdalene*. McKahan, Ellzey, members of the Rude Mechanicals, and communications majors produced the film adaptation in the Knutti Hall TV Studio.

Dr. McKahan’s essay, “From Memory Palace to Dream Palace: Cinematic Representations from the Parlor to the Living Room,” was accepted for the Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association joint national conference in Seattle, Washington, in March. The essay examines the role of interior architectural spaces on filmic image, narrative, and ideology.

A short story, titled “Children Left to be Raised by Wolves,” by **DR. CARRIE MESSENGER**, associate professor in the Department of English and Modern Languages, will appear in the next volume of the literary magazine *Post Road*. This spring, Dr. Messenger was a fellow at the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts. While in residence, she worked on a novel set in Chicago during the late 1960s.

DAVID R. MODLER, assistant professor of art and coordinator of art education, has maintained an active schedule of exhibitions, lectures, presentations, and workshops. In March, he facilitated two different workshops, delivering a presentation and participating in a book signing at the National Art Education Association Convention in Chicago. In April, he provided art-making workshops on visual journals and mixed media processes at the Art and Soul Mixed Media Art Retreat in Portland, Oregon. In July, Modler installed an interactive art installation called *Draw and Play Here: tef[r]ad Session #2* at the Weatherspoon Art Museum in Greensboro, North Carolina. Modler received the 2016 M. Louise Shimp Memorial Faculty Excellence Award for this project, which invited the greater community to participate not just as art viewers but also as art makers. In August, he taught several workshops at the Art Unraveled artists’ retreat in Phoenix, Arizona.

In October, Modler’s work was exhibited in a solo show in Lexington, Virginia; he gave a keynote address and conducted a workshop for art educators at the Florida Art Education Association Conference in Naples; and presented two lectures and conducted two workshops at the West Virginia Art Education Association Conference in Daniels. Modler has also been nominated as West Virginia Higher Ed Art Educator of the Year by the West Virginia Art Education Association.

He will present a keynote address and workshop to art educators at the Colorado Art Education Association Conference and a lecture and workshop at the Creative Industries Studios for the National Art Honor Society in Washington, D.C., in November.

In March 2017, he will facilitate three different workshops, deliver two presentations, and participate in a book signing at the



Dr. Matthew J. Kushin



Dr. Jason Grant
McKahan



Dr. Carrie Messenger



Dr. Timothy K. Nixon



Dr. Sylvia Bailey Shurbutt

National Art Education Association Convention in New York City. Modler will be providing art-making workshops on visual journals and mixed media processes at the Art and Soul Mixed Media Art Retreat in Portland, Oregon, in April 2017.

DR. TIMOTHY K. NIXON, associate professor in the Department of English and Modern Languages, delivered a presentation, titled “Klaus Mann: German Anti-Fascist and American Literary Figure,” during an October Faculty Research Forum. In addition to talking about the life of this literary figure, Dr. Nixon discussed the process of collecting, editing, and translating manuscripts that were included in his book *Selected Short Works by Klaus Mann*, which was published earlier this year.

DR. SYLVIA BAILEY SHURBUTT, professor of English and director of the Appalachian Studies program, presented a paper on Nikki Giovanni, titled “Chasing the Revolution, the Prose and Poetry of Nikki Giovanni,” at the College English Association meeting in Denver.

Dr. Shurbutt served as the conference chair of the Appalachian Studies Association meeting, held at Shepherd in the spring. **RACHAEL MEADS** served as program chair. More than a thousand scholars presented papers on Appalachia at this interdisciplinary conference. The keynote speaker was Frank X Walker, and the conference theme featured the diversity of the region: Voices from the Misty Mountains, A New Appalachian. This was the largest conference that Shepherd has ever hosted.

Dr. Shurbutt presented a paper on Jane Austen and Mary Wollstonecraft at the International Wordsworth Conference in Grasmere, England, in August. The paper was titled “Political Subversion and the Gothic Romance, Romantic Literature on the Fringe Reconsidered.”

Shepherd’s second National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Seminar and West Virginia’s only NEH seminar, Voices from the Misty Mountains, brought teachers from across the country to Shepherd to study Appalachian literature and culture. Silas House, Frank X Walker, Adam Booth, and Rachael Meads were featured, along with Peggy McKowen, Ed Herendeen, and the Contemporary American Theater Festival actors. The dramatic works of House and Walker were brought to the community through CATF’s stage reading series. Shepherd received \$142,000 in funding to host an NEH Teacher Institute in July 2017. The institute will feature Nikki Giovanni, Silas House, CATF, and Appalachian Studies teachers Adam Booth and Rachael Meads.

DR. JOHN E. STEALEY III, Distinguished Professor Emeritus of History, attended the annual meeting of the Organization of American Historians in Providence, Rhode Island, April 7-10. By participating in such meetings, Dr. Stealey maintains currency in his fields of specialization, receives inspiration and ideas for his research and writing endeavors, visits old friends, including some Shepherd

graduates, and discusses research projects with other historians and university press editors.

On Memorial Day, Dr. Stealey delivered the address at the ceremony dedicating the plaque at the War Memorial Building, Shepherdstown, that honors the memory of area American Revolutionary War soldiers who sacrificed their lives in the fight for independence. The Pack Horse Ford Chapter of the National Society, Daughters of the American Revolution, erected the plaque and sponsored the dedicatory program. The presentation title was “The Shepherdstown Community’s Revolutionary War Soldiers: Memory Here and in Brooklyn.” More than 90 people attended. An illustrated report of this event appears in *Daughters of the American Revolution Newsletter*, 16, No. 5 (Sept./Oct. 2016): 421-22.

At the request of the editor of the *Journal of American History*, the academic publication of the Organization of American Historians, Dr. Stealey served as a reviewer/referee of a submitted article. He filed a comprehensive report with his recommendation.

In September, the West Virginia University Press issued the paperback reprint of Dr. Stealey’s first of four peer-reviewed university/academic press books, *The Antebellum Kanawha Salt Industry and Western Markets*. The University Press of Kentucky published the original hardback volume in 1993. This edition contains a new preface that places the work in several fields of historiographical development and interpretation, including regional and international economic history, the nonagricultural use of slaves, the profitability of slavery, the emergence of the market economy, business concert and combination, and the new capitalism studies. The prescient volume was the first university press monograph published by a Shepherd University professor. Official notice and description of this volume appear at wvupressonline.com/node/649/

Original compositions by **DR. GEORGIANN TOOLE**, associate professor of education, were performed by Winchester Musica Viva October 15 and 16 in a concert titled “A Composer of Our Own.” The concert featured arrangements of folk songs, gospel tunes, and original compositions based on text by Emily Dickinson and Saadi, a 12th-century Persian mystic poet. There was an excerpt from the Evensong service she wrote for the Piedmont Singers of Middleburg, Virginia, for the group’s 2015 residency in York, England. The concert offered a mix of a cappella pieces, as well as several with piano and violin accompaniment. One piece was not sung at all—it was a violin and piano instrumental that has never been performed before and was inspired by a trip Dr. Toole took this past summer to Scotland.

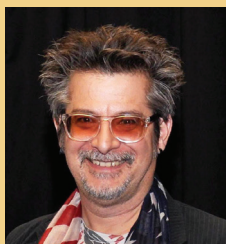
DR. KEVIN WILLIAMS, professor of mass communications, co-produced (with Shepherd communications students) and edited the video *Inauguration Symposium: The University’s Role in Translating Energy Challenges into Business and Employment Opportunities*. The hourlong event was moderated by **PRESIDENT MARY J.C. HENDRIX** and was shown twice on West Virginia Public Television.



Dr. John E. Stealey III



Dr. Georgiann Toole



Dr. Kevin Williams



Dr. Jonathan Gilkerson



Dr. Mark Lesser

School of Natural Sciences and Mathematics

DR. MOHAMMADREZA GHAHREMANI, assistant professor of computer engineering, has published the following articles: M. Ghahremani, A. Aslani, A. Siddique, L. H. Bennett, and E. Della Torre, "Tuning the heat transfer medium and operation conditions in magnetic refrigeration," *AIP Advances*, 6, 075221 (2016); M. Ghahremani, A. Aslani, L. H. Bennett, and E. Della Torre, "Magnetic states stabilization in Ni₅₁Mn_{33.4}In_{15.6} Heusler alloy," *Cogent Physics Journal*, 2, 1109019 (2015); Siddique, S. Gu, R. Witte, M. Ghahremani, C.A. Nwokoye, A. Aslani, R. Kruk, V. Provenzano, L.H. Bennett, and E. Della Torre, "Electric field-controlled magnetization switching in Co/Pt thin-film ferromagnets," *Cogent Physics Journal*, 3, 1139435 (2016); and A. Nwokoye, L. H. Bennett, E. Della Torre, M. Ghahremani, and F. A. Narducci, "Magneto-optical and magnetic properties in a Co/Pd multilayered thin film," *Journal of Magnetism and Magnetic Materials*, 421, 230-233 (2017).

As part of his ongoing research on magnetic cooling technology, in collaboration with Institute for Magnetism Research, Dr. Ghahremani made an experimental discovery on nanoparticles magnetic properties. This discovery has revealed that nanoparticles, as compared to their bulk counterpart, have a larger magnetocaloric effect with less hysteresis. This is a critical advance in the design of magnetic refrigeration systems. An immediate application is the cooling of computer chips. Dr. Ghahremani presented his discovery on nanoparticles in a talk at the MMM-Intermag Joint Conference in San Diego on January 14.

DR. JONATHAN GILKERSON, assistant professor of biology, is a co-author of a paper, "Cycloheximide Assays to Measure Protein Degradation in vivo in Plants," published in *bio-protocol*, <http://bio-protocol.org/e1919>. The methods paper describes how to determine the half-lives of proteins in plants.

DR. MARK LESSER, assistant professor of biology, presented an invited seminar in the Adaptive Peaks seminar series at the State University of New York, College of Environmental Science and Forestry on October 13. The presentation was titled "Influence of white-tailed deer on forest regeneration at landscape scales."

Dr. Lesser has been invited to speak about his research at the Southwest Fire Ecology Conference in Tucson, Arizona, in December. His presentation is titled "How populations grow: Contributions of long distance dispersal and intrinsic establishment in disjunct ponderosa pine stands."

DR. CLARISSA MATHEWS, professor of environmental studies and chair of the Institute of Environmental and Physical Sciences, was the senior author of the paper "Comparison of Peach Cultivars for Providing Extrafloral Nectar Resources to *Harmonia axyridis* (Coleoptera: Coccinellidae)" in *Environmental Entomology*, and co-authored two papers on biological control of stink bugs. She

served as PI on a grant from the West Virginia Division of Energy that brought three new electric car chargers to the campus Sustainability Site. Dr. Mathews continues to serve on the Northeastern Integrated Pest Management Center Steering Committee and Advisory Council.

Administration

TOM CRAMPTON, assistant director of facilities, passed APPA's Certified Educational Facilities Professional (CEFP) credentialing exam in August. The CEFP is a way to validate the unique knowledge and competency required of an accomplished professional in the educational facilities field. APPA is the association dedicated to leadership in educational facilities.

MICHAEL GOLZE, Student Center assistant director and coordinator of operations, was selected to the regional leadership team of the Association of College Unions International (ACUI) Region VI as the corporate partnerships coordinator. In the position he will identify new potential corporate participants, assist in efforts to recruit and educate them about ACUI, and identify creative ways that corporate participants can support the initiatives of ACUI at the regional level. Golze has been a member of ACUI for four years and has attended many regional conferences and presented an educational session about incorporating improv games into staff training programs. He looks forward to this two-year term with ACUI Region VI.

BRIAN K. HAMMOND, IT administrative analyst and budget officer, was inducted in April into Shepherd University's chapter of the Phi Kappa Phi national honor society. Hammond has worked at Shepherd in the IT Services department since 1987. He is currently the chair of the Classified Employees Council and has been active with the group for the last 10 years.

Groundbreaking cancer research led by **PRESIDENT MARY J.C. HENDRIX** was featured in an article in the June 16 issue of the journal *Science*. The article focuses on work Hendrix's lab has been conducting over the past two decades looking at how highly aggressive tumors metastasize, or spread throughout the body.

Dr. Hendrix's research has its roots in post-doctoral work she did at Harvard University in the late 1970s when a professor there, Dr. Judah Folkman, was conducting research on the then-new theory of tumor angiogenesis. This is the process where tumors secrete a substance that signals nearby blood vessels to grow into them, feeding the tumors the oxygen and nutrients that allow them to grow and spread to other parts of the body. Dr. Hendrix's lab has taken Folkman's theory to the next level, exploring how aggressive tumor cells are capable of forming their own vasculature and connecting to nearby blood vessels, and coining the phrase vasculogenic mimicry (also known as vascular mimicry) to describe this discovery.



Dr. Clarissa Mathews



Dr. Mary J.C. Hendrix



Dr. Tom Segar

DR. TOM SEGAR, vice president for student affairs, co-presented a preconference session in March at the Annual Conference of the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators titled, “Being Both: Integrating Working Class Roots with a Middle Class Higher Ed Identity.” He served as chair of the 11th Annual West Virginia Student Leadership Conference, sponsored by the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission and the West Virginia Community and Technical College System, with support from CSDA graduate intern Megan Ball. He co-led a session of the LeaderShape Institute for the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and the Singapore University of Technology and Design in June. He presented two webinars for the American College Personnel Association, “Advanced Student Affairs Leadership and Management” in July and “Working Toward Multicultural Organizational Change” in October.

MATT WARE, assistant director of facilities management, successfully passed the state of West Virginia’s Certified Professional Horticulturist credentialing exam in July.



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