

# Profiles

Shepherd University Faculty and Staff Professional Activities

## School of Natural Sciences and Mathematics

**DR. JASON BEST**, professor of astronomy and astrophysics, presented the invited keynote speech “If You Meet...” at the 14th Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Diversity Celebration, held January 16 at the Kepler Performing and Visual Arts Center at Hagerstown (Maryland) Community College. In addition to Dr. Best’s talk, the celebration featured a dramatic rendition of Dr. King’s “I Have a Dream” speech performed by the Reverend Darin Mency and remarks from Hagerstown Community College President Guy Altieri, along with music, dance performances, poetry readings, and presentations by HCC students.

As part of a feature on former Shepherd student and NASA astrophysicist Dr. Justin Ellis, Dr. Best was interviewed as part of the West Virginia Public Broadcasting series *Inspiring West Virginians*. This series, in its seventh year, “tells the stories of West Virginians who are exceptional leaders in science and business. We visit them where they are, learn about what they do, hear stories of their childhoods and the influence of a West Virginia upbringing. Coming from small towns or modest means, they’ve all overcome hardships and hurdles on their way to the top of their fields. These individuals credit their Mountain State upbringing and the values they were taught here as factors in their achievements. In return, they’re giving back to their home state in various ways.” Dr. Ellis is a NASA Einstein Fellow currently working at NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory (with an additional appointment at CalTech); he got started in the field as an undergraduate at Shepherd working under Dr. Best’s supervision.

**DR. MOHAMMADREZA GHAHREMANI**, assistant professor of computer engineering, has published two journal articles: A. Aslani, M. Ghahremani, M. Zhang, L. H. Bennett, and E. Della Torre, “Enhanced Magnetic Properties of Yttrium-Iron Nanoparticles,” *AIP Advances*, 7, 056423 (2017) and M. Ghahremani, A. Aslani, L. H. Bennett, and E. Della Torre, “Optimization of magnetic refrigerators by tuning the heat transfer medium and operation conditions,” *Bulletin of the American Physical Society*, B19.00014 (2016). Dr. Ghahremani has experimentally investigated and measured the enhanced magnetic properties of yttrium-iron nanoparticles, and

revealed that yttrium-iron nanoparticles are suitable candidates for being used as refrigerant in magnetic refrigeration. He presented this research in a talk in October 2016 at the 61st Annual Conference on Magnetism and Magnetic Materials in New Orleans.

**DR. CLARISSA MATHEWS**, professor of environmental studies and chair of the Institute of Environmental and Physical Sciences, senior-authored the articles “Evaluating a Polyculture Trap Crop for Organic Management of *Halyomorpha halys* and Native Stink Bugs in Peppers,” featured in the *Journal of Pest Science* Special Issue on *Halyomorpha halys*, and “Comparison of Peach Cultivars for Providing Extrafloral Nectar Resources to *Harmonia axyridis* (Coleoptera: Coccinellidae),” published in *Environmental Entomology*. She co-authored three additional articles on brown marmonated stink bug management and was featured in numerous local news articles covering her biological control research. Dr. Mathews was lead-PI on a grant with the West Virginia Division of Energy, making possible the installation of three new electric vehicle charging stations at the Campus Sustainability Site, and she continues to serve on the Northeastern IPM Center Steering Committee and Advisory Council.

**DR. CAROL PLAUTZ**, associate professor of biology, and co-PI **DR. ROBERT WARBURTON**, professor of biochemistry, received a \$20,000 grant award in support of an instrumentation grant proposal to the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission titled “Modern State-of-the-Art Fluorescence Microscopy for Teaching and Research Applications at Shepherd University.” This grant, from the state’s Research Challenge Fund, was paired with matching funds from the Department of Biology and the Shepherd Entrepreneurship and Research Corporation to purchase the EVOS FL Imaging System (ThermoFisher Scientific). This fluorescent microscope will support both instructional and research objectives for faculty and students in biology and biochemistry.

## School of Education and Professional Studies

**DR. DAWNE BURKE**, professor of education, presented a copy of her book, *An American Phoenix: A History of Storer College from Slavery*



Dr. Jason Best



Dr. Mohammadreza  
Ghahremani



Dr. Clarissa Mathews



Dr. Carol Plautz



Dr. Robert Warburton

to *Desegregation 1865-1955*, to Dr. Bondy Shay Gibson, superintendent of Jefferson County Schools, for use in the school system.

**DR. DORIS BURKEY**, assistant professor of nursing education and a board certified family nurse practitioner, has been reappointed to the West Virginia Board of Examiners for Registered Professional Nurses. She has served on the board since June 2015. Her new term ends June 30, 2021. The board's main objective is to protect the public by regulating registered nurses and advanced practice nurses such as nurse practitioners, midwives, and nurse anesthetists.

**DR. DANIELLE HOLLAR**, director of the USDA Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program-Education (SNAP-Ed), presented the paper "Commit to health: Policies and standards targeting increased physical activity during out-of-school times produce results" February 22 at the Active Living Research Conference. Dr. Hollar's presentation describes the healthy results of evidence-based healthy eating, physical activity standards and policies, and targeted nutrition and healthy living educational programming in and out of school time settings. A nationwide sample of children, parents, and staff showed improvements in eating and physical activity behaviors due to interventions.

Her SNAP-Ed project was the subject of an article in *The Martinsburg Journal* and was featured on WHAG-TV, Hagerstown, Maryland, during a segment filmed at Mill Creek Intermediate School about the innovative indoor gardening projects she and her team are undertaking there, as well as at Marlowe Elementary and Spring Mills Elementary.

## School of Arts and Humanities

**DR. KEITH ALEXANDER**, assistant professor of history, published an article, "The Alternative Liste Westberlin and the Evolution of the West German Left," in the fall 2016 volume of *German Politics and Society*. The article, based on archival research Dr. Alexander conducted in Germany, examines the origins and evolution of the Alternative Liste—the "Alternative Ballot" for democracy and environmental protection. The article shows how this political party, initially opposed to the parliamentary system, became a significant presence in the West Berlin Parliament and joined the Social Democrats in governing West Berlin. Such parliamentary participation in the 1980s led a significant segment of the radical West German Left to accept parliamentary democracy, demonstrating the strength of the Federal Republic of Germany.

In December 2016, Dr. Alexander accompanied several other Shepherd University faculty members on a trip to Havana, Cuba, to explore opportunities for educational exchange for Shepherd students and faculty. The delegation visited historical and cultural sites in and around Havana, and met with artists, academics, and

other leaders. Dr. Alexander received a professional development mini-grant and a travel grant from the Office of International Affairs to plan a study trip to Cuba in March 2018. The trip will explore Cuban history and culture with an emphasis on architecture and historic preservation.

**DR. BENJAMIN BANKHURST**, assistant professor of history, presented a lecture on Appalachian history that was featured on CSPAN3's American History TV in March. CSPAN videotaped the lecture "Appalachia in the American Imagination" during the fall 2016 semester in the class West Virginia and the Appalachian Region. Dr. Bankhurst's lecture covers the years 1850 to the present and examines how outsiders and locals alike interpret Appalachian culture in order to understand and, in many cases, justify the economy of the region. The class is available online at [www.c-span.org/video/?419179-1/appalachia-american-imagination](http://www.c-span.org/video/?419179-1/appalachia-american-imagination).

**DR. JAMES J. BROOMALL**, director of the George Tyler Moore Center for the Study of the Civil War and assistant professor of history, helped to organize the Civil War Christmas, December 2-4, 2016. On January 13, he presented to the Institute for Global Studies at the University of Delaware a paper "The Battle of Gettysburg: Continuing to Inform Strategic Thinking." Dr. Broomall presented the keynote lecture at the spring meeting of the Jefferson County Historical Society on April 2 at the Charles Town Opera House. His talk, "Preserving the Past, Framing the Future: The George Tyler Moore Center for the Study of the Civil War," focused on the history of the center, as well as the history of the Shindler House, a Shepherdstown landmark. Dr. Broomall addressed the resources housed by the center, including its artifacts and a database on Civil War-era soldiers. The database, started in 1993, consists of the records of more than 40,000 soldiers from West Virginia and the adjacent Potomac River valley.

**DR. MARK ANDREW COOK**, associate professor of music, was awarded a professional development mini-grant for the spring of 2016. The grant funds were applied to a recording project, resulting in *The Mark Andrew Cook Jazz Group Live at St. John's*. The CD and digital recordings are now available on iTunes, Spotify, CDBaby, and other digital distributors. Featuring Chris Vadala, Mike Kamuf, David Marsh, and Ronnie Shaw, the recording has garnered international recognition. Many of the tracks are compositions by Dr. Cook.

Additionally, Dr. Cook was granted sabbatical during the fall of 2016. The results of this were:

- Composition, editing, and engraving of score and parts for *Symphony for Wind Ensemble (Dawn at Fox Gap)*
- Composition, editing, and engraving of score and parts for



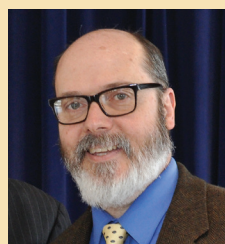
Dr. Dawne Burke



Dr. Doris Burkey



Dr. Danielle Hollar



Dr. Keith Alexander



Dr. Benjamin Bankhurst

*Sundogs, A Concert Overture for Orchestra*

- Composition, editing, and engraving of *Piano Sonata No. 2 (Apotropaic Periapts)*
- Writing, editing, and engraving of a jazz piano book, *Dicta Jazz: Exercises for Jazz Piano*, published through South Mountain Music and adopted as the textbook for a new course created by Dr. Cook within the recently implemented B.M. Jazz Studies in the Department of Music
- The Symphony and the Overture had parts extracted, and scores and parts converted to PDF format and submitted to Subito Music Distributors for availability to the music community at large
- Other works have been listed and uploaded in the Subito catalogue as well. These include *Waking: A Song Cycle*, *Sonata for Trumpet and Piano*, *Meditations Upon Saints for Organ*, and *Trio for Woodwinds*

As a pianist/keyboardist, Dr. Cook performs with his own group, as well as with The Mike Kamuf Little Big Band and David Detwiler's White House Band. Venues include Blues Alley, The New State Theater, The Music Café, The French Embassy (TIVO Awards), The Mayflower Hotel, The Williard Intercontinental, Washington County Museum of Fine Arts, Wilmington Jazz Festival, and the 33rd Annual Winston Spenser Churchill Society Conference.

As a trumpet player, he performed as a member of Prelude Brass Quintet for Easter services at Die Vereinigte Kirche in Washington, D.C. As a member of this group, he performed for the University of Maryland, College Park Graduate Program (Ph.D., management) commencement. Additionally, he performs regularly as trumpet/piccolo trumpet soloist at St. John's Episcopal Parish. He played fanfares upon six-foot long herald trumpets at the Phillips Collection in Washington for its annual fundraising gala.

**DR. BETTY ELLZEY**, professor of English and chair, Department of English and Modern Languages, presented a paper, "Gender-Fluid Othello," with graduate student Deidre Morrison at the Wilson College Humanities Conference on February 25.

**SONYA EVANISKO**, professor of art and coordinator of the painting and drawing program, served as the juror for the Berkeley Arts Council's *Art and Earth* exhibit that opened in April. Evanisko exhibited her work in *The Bodice Project*, an exhibit of sculptural forms that utilizes art to assist in the dialogue and healing of individuals and families dealing with breast cancer.

Evanisko developed a T-shirt design project where a design of the iconic Center for Contemporary Arts was designed/illustrated on a T-shirt and sold through the department's annual Art Market and in the Shepherd Bookstore with proceeds going to an art student scholarship fund. Currently, she is working on a large scale

mural design project with a group of painting students and alumni, developing concepts and ideas, creating sketches and mock-ups, and researching prep of the surface for Shepherd's underpass.

In February, Evanisko organized a field trip and traveled with 45 students to the American Craft Council Exhibit in Baltimore to explore careers and to the American Visionary Museum. In December 2016, Evanisko traveled with seven faculty members to Havana, Cuba, to explore the art and culture and the possibility of returning with Shepherd students. In February, she hosted a get-together at her home to share experiences, authentic Cuban food, photos, and journals of the travelers.

In the community, Evanisko serves as a juror on the American Conservation Film Festival (ACFF) film selection committee. She is currently reviewing and scoring conservation-themed films from around the world and selecting the work to be highlighted in the October 2017 film festival. The ACFF is dedicated to promoting outstanding films and the arts to educate and inspire people to become engaged in conservation.

**DR. HEIDI HANRAHAN**, associate professor of English, was awarded the Storer College Faculty Award, which recognizes a member of the faculty each year who incorporates diversity and social justice into the classroom, research, scholarship, and interaction with students, during an event held February 15. She was awarded a \$1,000 stipend to be used toward professional development.

In March, Dr. Hanrahan, **DR. SALLY BRASHER**, associate professor of history, and **DR. AMY DEWITT**, associate professor of sociology, participated in a roundtable discussion of collaboration and pedagogy at the Northeast Modern Languages Association (NEMLA) Convention in Baltimore. Their discussion was titled "Gender, Confinement, and Freedom: Team-Teaching Introduction to Women's Studies."

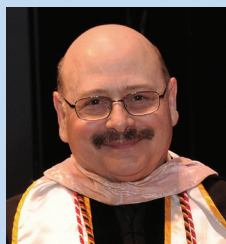
**DR. MATTHEW J. KUSHIN**, associate professor of communication, recently published a co-authored scholarly research article in *Mass Communication & Society* titled "Social Media and Political Disengagement among Young Adults: A Moderated Mediation Model of Cynicism, Efficacy, and Social Media Use on Apathy." He recently published a co-authored scholarly article in an edited volume titled *Politics, Protest, and Empowerment in Digital Spaces*. The article is titled "The Demobilizing Potential Of Conflict For Web and Mobile Political Participation."

Dr. Kushin, along with colleagues from other universities, collected survey data of likely voters during the 2016 November presidential election. He utilized funding received from a Shepherd University Foundation summer Professional Development Stipend as well as other funding sources.

Dr. Kushin served as a panelist on the use of social media to



Dr. James Broomall



Dr. Mark Cook



Dr. Betty Ellzey



Sonya Evanisko



Dr. Heidi Hanrahan



promote academic work at the annual meeting of the International Studies Association, South.

His Public Relations Principles class is participating in the Ketchum Mindfire Challenge. In this program college students from across the United States submit ideas aimed at addressing business challenges for clients of Ketchum, a global public relations agency.

He serves as co-chair of the Social Media Committee of the Public Relations Division of the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication. He is the faculty advisor to the new Shepherd University chapter of the National Millennial Community.

Dr. Kushin traveled to Toronto, Canada, 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.

In March, Dr. Kushin presented on crafting social media content to a training session of eight regional social media coordinators at the National Conversation Training Center in Shepherdstown. In May, he is serving as a panelist on the “Ethics, Power, and the Public Sphere in the Age of Twitter” panel co-sponsored by the George Washington Institute of Living Ethics and the Robert C. Byrd Center for Congressional History and Education.

In October 2016, **DR. JIM LEWIN**, professor of English, presented a paper titled “King Lear Encounters a New Millenium” at the annual Ohio Valley Shakespeare Conference at Wright State University in Dayton, Ohio. He has been invited to write a 4,000-word review essay on recent biographies of Bob Dylan, to be published in an upcoming issue of *MidAmerica*, the journal for the Society of Midwestern Literature. In addition, the Oxford Encyclopedia for American Literature has asked Dr. Lewin to update his article on Isaac Bashevis Singer for the encyclopedia’s online publication.

**DR. CARRIE MESSENGER**, associate professor of English, will be a fellow at the MacDowell Colony in May. The MacDowell Colony is the nation’s leading artist colony. Thornton Wilder, James Baldwin, Alice Walker, Leonard Bernstein, Aaron Copland, Barbara Tuchman, Milton Avery, and Virgil Thomson are some of the famous artists who are MacDowell Fellows. More recent Fellows include Michael Chabon, Alice Sebold, Jeffrey Eugenides, Wendy Wasserstein, and Jonathan Franzen, as well as composers Meredith Monk and Ned Rorem, filmmaker Michael Almereyda, and architect Leslie Robertson. MacDowell Fellows have won more than 65 Pulitzer Prizes, a dozen MacArthur Foundation Genius Awards, and scores of Rome Prizes, Guggenheims, National Book Awards, Academy Awards, Grammys, and Sundance prizes. While in residency, Dr. Messenger will be working on a novel set in Chicago during the late 1960s.

**DR. SYLVIA BAILEY SHURBUTT**, professor of English and coordinator of the Appalachian Studies Program, presented a paper March 12 on the eco-environmentalism theme in the fiction of Charles Frazier at the National Appalachian Studies Association Conference, Extreme Appalachia, at Virginia Tech, followed on April 3 by a College English Association presentation in Hilton Head, South Carolina, on Frazier’s anti-war fiction. Dr. Shurbutt and anthology editors have completed the *Anthology of Appalachian Writers, Charles Frazier Volume IX*, which will be available this spring. Hannah Badley is student editor of the anthology this year. The book is published by the West Virginia Center for the Book. An interview with Ron Rash by Dr. Shurbutt and fellow anthology editor and Pennsylvania educator and alumnus Dave Hoffman ’05 has just been released in *Conversations with Ron Rash*, University of Mississippi Press. Rash was Shepherd’s 2011 Appalachian Heritage Writer-in-Residence and winner of the Appalachian Heritage Writer’s Award.

Dr. Shurbutt, **RACHAEL MEADS**, and **ADAM BOOTH** are currently accepting applications from teachers around the nation for the Third NEH Summer Seminar (2017 Institute) for Teachers. Shepherd University is the only higher education institution in West Virginia to receive an NEH Summer Institute and was awarded \$150,000 to bring Appalachian artists to Shepherdstown in July to interact with the teachers and to interface with the Contemporary American Theater Festival, a partner with the NEH Voices from the Misty Mountains Institute.

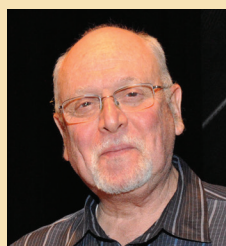
The Appalachian Studies Program is taking 21 students and community members to Ireland, Wales, and the English Lakes in May as part of the Celtic Roots Global Studies program.

Dr. Shurbutt, **MONICA LINGENFELTER**, and **DR. BEN BANKHURST** are co-directors of a grant for more than \$10,000 which has been submitted to the West Virginia Humanities Council to fund the 2017 Appalachian Writer-in-Residence Wiley Cash, a young North Carolina writer whose *A Land More Kind Than Home* will be the 2017 West Virginia One Book One West Virginia Community Read. Cash will work with the AHWIR Committee during spring and summer 2017 on various projects of the AHWIR, which include the West Virginia Fiction Competition, the Anthology of Appalachian Writers, and the Appalachian Heritage Festival. Cash will be on campus to meet the community, to accept the Appalachian Heritage Writer’s Award, and present the Scarborough Lecture in September.

**RHONDA SMITH**, professor of art and chair of the Department of Contemporary Art and Theater, was awarded Best in Show at the juried show titled *INK IT: Contemporary Print Practices* at the Black Rock Center for the Arts in Germantown, Maryland. She will have a one-person exhibit at the center in 2018.



Dr. Matthew Kushin



Dr. Jim Lewin



Dr. Carrie Messenger



Dr. Sylvia Bailey Shurbutt



Rhonda Smith

**DR. JOHN E. STEALEY III**, Distinguished Professor Emeritus of History, was appointed to the Distinguished West Virginians Acquisition Advisory Board of the West Virginia and Regional History Center (WVRHC), West Virginia University Libraries by Dr. E. Gordon Gee, president of West Virginia University. The goal of the committee is to identify distinguished West Virginians in all fields of endeavor and to concentrate on using institutional resources to acquire their personal papers and archives. The WVRHC, which has existed since the 1930s, is the preeminent archives and collection of books, periodicals, pamphlets, broadsides, manuscripts, photographs, newspapers, and ephemera for the study of West Virginia and Appalachian history, broadly construed. Among recent acquisitions have been the papers of Confederate Colonel George S. Patton, Pearl Buck, Jerry West, Senator John D. Rockefeller IV, and Congressman Nick Joe Rahall II. Dr. Stealey has been chair of the West Virginia University Libraries Visiting Committee since 1984.

Over the years, as a professional courtesy and as a friend, Dr. Stealey has read, upon other historians' request, numerous draft articles and manuscripts in his fields of specialty before their submission to a publisher. He is presently critically reviewing 19th century portions of a constitutional history of Virginia.

In the public history area, for the seventh year, Dr. Stealey collected, selected, and described the historical photographs from various archives and assembled the 2017 Jefferson Security Bank calendar. The work includes historical scenes of Berkeley and Jefferson counties, West Virginia, and Washington County, Maryland.

## School of Business and Social Sciences

**DR. CHIQUITA HOWARD-BOSTIC**, assistant professor of sociology and chair of the Department of Sociology and Geography, was an organizer and facilitator of a teach-in on human trafficking on January 25. The event was co-sponsored with the Shepherdstown Anti-Human Trafficking Task Force to highlight National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month. The teach-in encouraged dialogue among 100+ Shepherd students, faculty, and staff and community members about law enforcement, legislative, community, and healthcare responses to human trafficking.

On February 16, Dr. Howard-Bostic was recognized for her leadership in the local community at the South Middle School Black History Month Celebration. From April 7-8, she attended the East Coast Colleges Social Science Association (ECCSSA) 43rd Annual Conference to explore the future of instruction, learning, and leadership. She accompanied an interdisciplinary faculty and student research team that presented findings from the 2016 Shepherd Red Flag Campaign Survey. From May 18-20, Dr. Howard-Bostic will attend the 2017 Council of Independent Colleges Department and Division Chair Workshop in Baltimore, Maryland.

She was selected as a keynote speaker for the Fourth International Conference on Advances in Women's Studies to be held June 10 in Toronto, Canada. She will deliver an address about empowering academia and the community using bystander intervention.

**DR. ANN MARIE LEGREID**, dean of the School of Business and Social Sciences and professor of geography, has had an article published in *International Research and Review*, *Journal of Phi Beta Delta Honor Society for International Scholars*. The article, based on the keynote address she delivered at the society's national meeting last year, is titled "Potholes and Strategies on the Road to Campus Internationalization." She is a member of the society's executive board and is vice president for the Southeast Region. Additionally, Dr. Legreid has been elected to the Board of Directors of the Norwegian-American Historical Association, St. Olaf College, Minnesota.

**DR. BEN MARTZ**, dean for business school development and professor of business administration, has been appointed by the Jefferson County Commission to fill an unexpired term on the Jefferson County Development Authority (JCDA). He will serve until April 5, 2018.

**DR. JOSEPH W. ROBBINS**, associate professor of political science, has had multiple articles published, presented research at two conferences, and has reviewed manuscripts for two separate journals. As Shepherd's debate and forensics team coach, Dr. Robbins has led the team to another successful season.

For research, Dr. Robbins has published three peer-reviewed journal articles. The first, published in *Legislative Studies Quarterly*, examines how European Union (EU) legislators respond to different influences when legislating. This study, "Multiple Principals and Legislative Cohesion," was co-written with Frank Thames and Stephen Meserve. The second publication, printed by *Terrorism and Political Violence*, was co-written with Lance Hunter and David Bennett (Shepherd University, English), and explores the damaging political effects that terrorist attacks have on party system stability in more than 50 democracies. The third publication, which appeared in *Conflict, Security & Development*, finds that the likelihood that states engage in interstate conflict is impacted significantly by the nature of a state's electoral systems. The reason for this, Dr. Robbins and his co-author argue, is that conflict can be a politically risky endeavor but certain electoral systems shelter legislators from these potentially damaging consequences more than others.

In fall 2016, he participated in two separate conferences—the International Studies Association-South's conference at Shepherd University and the Georgia Political Science Association's (GPSA) conference in Savannah, Georgia. Dr. Robbins presented



Dr. John E. Stealey III



Dr. Chiquita  
Howard-Bostic



Dr. Ann Marie Legreid



Dr. Ben Martz

one research project at the ISA-South conference and served as discussant for two additional panels. Meanwhile, at the GPSA, Robbins presented a paper he co-wrote with Shepherd undergrad David Bennett (English). The GPSA paper examined how global terrorism is impacted by income inequality, revealing in particular how disparate societies are likely to see upticks in terrorist attacks.

In terms of service, his work with Shepherd's Pi Sigma Alpha (PSA) Chapter has been productive as well. Late last fall, the PSA Chapter hosted its fifth ambassador to campus, Ambassador Mamady Conde (Guinea) and his delegation (more details are available on the Department of Political Science's webpage <http://www.shepherd.edu/pi-sigma-alpha/ambassador-visits>). The PSA Chapter is also pleased to announce that a national grant proposal was accepted by the national chapter of PSA. The funds received from this grant will allow the PSA chapter to host a year-end banquet for the organization.

Dr. Robbins also has served as a peer-reviewer for multiple journals during this semester (including the *American Journal of Political Science* and the *American Political Science Review*—the political science discipline's two flagship journals) and has been invited to participate in various focus groups and reviews through multiple publishers.

As the university's debate and forensics team coach, Dr. Robbins is proud to report that the team finished a very successful season. After winning first place in Team Debate at the WVIFA State Tournament for the second year in a row, the team traveled to Ocean City, Maryland, for the CFA's end-of-season tournament. The team also took second place at the Wilkes Invitational Tournament in early February. Dr. Robbins also serves two roles in WVIFA's Executive Council: executive secretary and webmaster.

## Shepherd UNIVERSITY

### Profiles • Spring 2017

*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).

**DR. STEPHANIE A. SLOCUM-SCHAFER**, associate professor of political science and co-coordinator of Women's Studies, attended the American Political Science Association's 14th annual Teaching and Learning Conference in Long Beach, California, February 10-12. The conference is built on a working group model, wherein participants present research and discuss innovations and ideas in pedagogy and assessment over a three-day, track-specific workshop. Dr. Slocum-Schaffer presented a paper, titled "Who, When, and How: Strategies for Assessing Civic Knowledge, Critical Reasoning, and Oral Communication Competencies in the Political Science Classroom," in the core curriculum/general education track.

**CINDY VANCE**, assistant professor of accounting, continues her doctoral studies at Northcentral University to obtain a Doctor of Philosophy in business administration with a specialization in advanced accounting. Vance completed all of the required doctoral courses and is currently working on her dissertation titled "The Effect of the Presence of Fraud and Auditor Certification Considering Professional Skepticism on Fraud Risk Assessment Performance." Vance became a member of the Northcentral University Lambda Eta Chapter of the International Business Honor Society, Delta Mu Delta (DMD); Northcentral University students must have completed a sufficient number of courses and be in the top 20 percent of their respective classes to become a member of DMD. She attended the West Virginia Council of Accounting Educators Conference in Charleston in the fall. Additionally, she 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 AICPA and VSCPA. She maintains her CPA license and serves as a consultant in the accounting field.

## Center for Teaching, Learning and Instructional Resources

**YILDIZ NUREDINOSKI**, Stretch English clinical faculty, and a few of her writing tutors presented "Gaming in the Writing Center" at the Mid-Atlantic Writing Center Association conference, held at Penn State Berks on April 1. The theme for the conference was A Day at the Carnival: Writing Centers as Sites for Play. Her presentation featured various online and table top English-related games that were developed in order to gamify the Academic Support Center. The discussion examined how to best engage and motivate students using games, while acknowledging the limits of gamification.



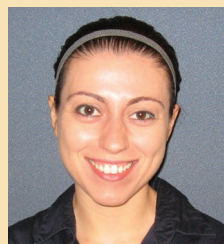
Dr. Joe Robbins



Dr. Stephanie  
Slocum-Schaffer



Cindy Vance



Yildiz Nuredinoski



## Administration

**PRESIDENT MARY J.C. HENDRIX** has been named to an external advisory panel for research being conducted at the Center of Nanotechnology Excellence (CCNE) at Northwestern University. CCNE has received a five-year grant from the National Cancer Institute to research the use of nanotherapeutic treatment for brain and prostate cancers. Dr. Hendrix was invited by Dr. Chad A. Mirkin and Dr. Leonidas Platanius, CCNE co-directors, to serve on the panel of nationally recognized scientific leaders. The panel will participate in an annual review identifying strengths, weaknesses, gaps, redundancies, and effectiveness of research and programs at Northwestern and use that information to develop written recommendations regarding scientific direction, scope, prioritization, and financial stewardship.

**KAREN RICE**, director of continuing education and lifelong learning, has been elected to a three-year term of 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. Rice also was made an honorary board member in November 2016 of the Contemporary American Theater Festival after serving nine years on the CATF board in positions of treasurer, chair of the Committee on the Board, and chair of the Education Committee.

**TRACY SEFFERS**, registrar, has published *Some Other Life*, a collection of poems published by Finishing Line Press, Georgetown, Kentucky. Her poetry has been featured in reading events through the Jefferson County Arts Council and in West Virginia Writers podcasts and published in regional literary journals such as *Bluestone Review*, *Backbone Mountain Review*, *Pine Mountain Sand & Gravel Literary Journal*, *Anthology of Appalachian Writers*, and in online journals including *Still: The Journal* and *Assisi: An Online Journal of Arts and Letters*. Seffers attended the 2013 Appalachian Writer's Workshop at the Hindman Settlement School in Kentucky.

**DR. THOMAS SEGAR**, vice president for student affairs and affiliate graduate professor in the College Student Development and Administration Master's Program, served as the keynote speaker at the University of Arizona's 10th Annual Student Affairs, Enrollment Management, Academic Initiatives, and Student Success Symposium, delivering a speech titled "Walk the Line: Navigating Campus Activism," November 2016. Dr. Segar was a featured speaker at the National Association of Campus Activities National Convention in February where he delivered two talks: "Expanding Your Reach By Leading with Social Justice" and "Fostering Inclusion Among Your Student Leaders."



Dr. Mary J.C. Hendrix



Karen Rice



Tracy Seffers



Dr. Tom Segar