

Profiles

Shepherd University

Faculty and Staff Professional Activities • Fall 2017

College of Arts and Humanities

DR. KEITH ALEXANDER, assistant professor of history, convened the panel “Sick Behind Bars: The Ethics of the Incarceration of the Mentally Ill,” held on March 2 as part of the Common Reading events for the 2016-2017 academic year. The panel examined questions such as the prevalence of mental illness among prison inmates, screening and treatment options for mentally ill prisoners, and the correlation between mental illness and death sentences.

Dr. Alexander convened and served as panelist for “Ethics, Power, and the Public Sphere in the Age of Twitter,” held May 3. The panel examined the impact of social media on recent political events and discussed the implications of platforms such as Twitter and Facebook for the American system of government.

On September 13, Dr. Alexander presented the first Faculty Research Forum of the 2017-2018 academic year. His presentation, “The Alternative Liste Westberlin and the Evolution of the German Left,” examined the origins and evolution of this Green Party affiliate. Dr. Alexander’s research shows that, initially, the new political organization fundamentally opposed the parliamentary system. Within three years, however, the AL won a significant presence in the West Berlin Parliament, and in 1989, the party joined the Social Democrats in governing West Berlin. The AL’s parliamentary participation had a moderating, integrative effect on the party and its members. From the late 1970s to the end of the 1980s, a significant segment of the radical West German Left grew to accept parliamentary democracy, demonstrating the strength of the Federal Republic of Germany.

A review of the work by **CHRISTIAN BENEFIEL**, associate professor of art, appeared in the September 2017 issue of *Sculpture* magazine. The review examined Benefiel’s exhibit at Flashpoint Gallery in Washington, D.C.

DR. SALLY BRASHER, professor of history, published the monograph *Hospitals and Charity: Religious Culture and Civic Life in Medieval Northern Italy*. This work provides a comprehensive examination of the hospital movement that arose and prospered in northern Italy between the 12th and 15th centuries. Throughout this flourishing urbanized area hundreds of independent semi-religious facilities

appeared, offering care for the ill, the poor, and pilgrims en route to holy sites in Rome and the eastern Mediterranean. Over three centuries they became mechanisms for the appropriation of civic authority and political influence in the communities they served, and created innovative experiments in healthcare and poor relief which are the precursors to modern social welfare systems.

Dr. Brasher’s article “Catherine of Siena (1347-1380): Political Persuasion and Party Leadership of the Intellective Mystic” appeared in the edited volume *Women, Religion and Leadership; Female Saints as Unexpected/Extraordinary Leaders*, edited by Barbara Jones Denison and published in 2017. Another article, “Gender, Confinement, and Freedom: Team-Teaching Introduction to Women’s Studies,” will appear in the Winter 2017 issue of *Feminist Teacher*. Dr. Brasher co-authored this article with Shepherd professors **DR. AMY DEWITT** and **DR. HEIDI HANRAHAN**. The article is based on a class the three team-teach for the Gender and Women’s Studies program at Shepherd.

DR. JAMES J. BROOMALL, assistant professor of history and director of the George Tyler Moore Center for the Study of the Civil War, had a Roundtable Discussion on Confederate Monuments published in the online blog *Emerging Civil War* in August 2017 and a Roundtable Discussion on Confederate Monuments in *Civil War Times Illustrated* published in October 2017. He had a book review of Kanisorn Wongsrichanalai’s *Northern Character: College-Educated New Englanders, Honor, Nationalism, and Leadership in the Civil War Era* published in *Civil War History*, Fall 2017. His article “Chaos Along the River: Confederate Raiders Raised Continuous Havoc in the Potomac River Valley” will appear in the December issue of *Civil War Times Illustrated*.

Dr. Broomall presented “Crossroads: Civil War Comes to Shepherdstown” as part of the Historic Shepherdstown Speaker Series in August.

DR. DAVID B. GORDON, professor of history and chair of the Department of History, helped organize a course with optional Educational Professional Development credit titled East Asia: A Seminar for Teachers. He is co-teaching the course in fall 2017 over the course of five Saturdays together with Dr. David Kenley,



Dr. Keith Alexander



Christian Benefiel



Dr. Sally Brasher



Dr. James Broomall



Dr. David Gordon

Elizabethtown College. The course, which meets on the Shepherd campus, is aimed at public school teachers who seek to enhance the Asia-related content of their courses on history, social studies, and other subjects. Funding is provided by the National Consortium for Teaching about Asia, a program of the Freeman Foundation. Dr. Gordon aims to continue to provide iterations of this course for area teachers in the coming years.

DR. HEIDI HANRAHAN, associate professor of English, had an article, “One Must Come ‘West’: Caroline Kirkland’s Heterotopic Vision,” published in *Watching Review* in April 2017. Her review of Robert T. Tally Jr.’s *Poe and the Subversion of American Literature: Satire, Fantasy, Critique* appeared in the May 2017 issue of the *Journal of American Studies*.

In November, Dr. Hanrahan and **DR. AMY DEWITT**, associate professor of sociology, will present a paper titled “This is not who you are: Disney Transforms the Female Monster” at the Mid-Atlantic Popular Culture Association Conference in Philadelphia.

KRISTIN KAINEG, associate professor of art and coordinator of the graphic design program, was the brand identity and user-interface designer working as part of an international team to create and build an app that connects, compares, and tracks service providers in Singapore. Ovvy, The People Marketplace, was released in 2017 and has a similar functionality to Task Rabbit in the United States.

Closer to home, she collaborated with **DAVID MODLER** to design the promotional materials for the 2017 West Virginia Art Education Association Conference held at Shepherd University October 27-28. Design materials for the event include a poster, postcard, banners, signage, and conference schedule.

In the classroom, Kaineg’s ART 390 Professional Practices II course is collaborating with Snowshoe Mountain to create the design and marketing materials for the 2018 Homegrown Festival in March. The project kicked-off in September with the creative brief; in October poster concepts were pitched; and in November the class will travel to Snowshoe Mountain to make final presentations to the marketing team. The team will select one of the presented solutions to be used for the event. Kaineg worked with Sarah Guyette, a Shepherd University alumna, to develop the project’s goals and deliverables.

DR. MATTHEW J. KUSHIN, associate professor of communication, recently published a co-authored scholarly article titled “Social media and a spiral of political disaffection among young adults: A moderated mediation model of cynicism, efficacy, and social media on apathy” in the journal *Mass Communication & Society*. He also published a co-authored scholarly article in the *Journal of Asian Pacific Communication* titled “The demobilizing potential of inter-

personal conflict in the Pacific: The case of Guam.” Dr. Kushin is the co-author of an encyclopedia entry on sentiment analysis in the *Encyclopedia of Big Data*.

In addition, Dr. Kushin’s co-authored piece, “Societal Majority, Facebook, and the Spiral of Silence in the 2016 U.S. Presidential Election,” was presented at the annual conference of the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication in August in Chicago, Illinois. His co-authored piece, “A civic potential for video games in the Asia-Pacific region and the U.S.: Linking the social, achievement and immersion motivations to use games with online political participation and political decision-making,” was presented in September at the annual conference of the Asian Media Information and Communication Centre in Quezon City, Philippines.

In August, his co-authored piece, “Hootsuite University: Equipping Academics and Future PR Professionals for Social Media Success,” was awarded the top downloaded article award by the *Journal of Public Relations Education* for this past academic year.

Dr. Kushin’s Strategic Campaigns class is partnering with Children of Uganda, a nonprofit based in Charles Town, to develop a promotional campaign. His Social Media class is participating in the Hootsuite Academy program and is participating in the inaugural class of the Meltwater University program. Both programs provide students access to widely used industry software for monitoring and analyzing social media.

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.

In the last few months, Dr. Kushin traveled to Toledo, Spain, Montreal, Canada, and Buffalo, New York. In each of these locations 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.

This summer, **DR. JIM LEWIN**, professor of English, wrote a 5,000-word essay about recent biographies of Bob Dylan, titled “Dylan’s Destiny,” for *MidAmerica*, the principal publication of the Society for the Study of Midwestern Literature. The editor solicited this project as a follow up to Dr. Lewin’s article “Bob Dylan’s Midwestern Roots.” Also, the Ohio Valley Shakespeare Conference accepted Dr. Lewin’s proposal to present a paper on Shakespeare’s Rape of Lucrece at its 2017 meeting held October 19-21 at Baldwin Wallace University.

DAVID R. MODLER, associate professor of art and coordinator of art education, presented Telling Our Stories: Integrating Text in the Visual Journal, as part of The Art of Education Online Conference



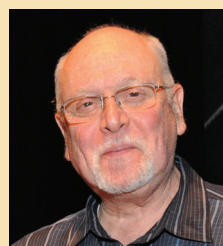
Dr. Heidi Hanrahan



Kristin Kaineg



Dr. Matthew Kushin



Dr. Jim Lewin

and conducted portfolio reviews for prospective high school students who applied to attend the Performing and Visual Arts Northwest (PAVAN) Regional Summer Governor's School in Stephens City, Virginia, in February. In March, Modler installed a solo exhibit of his work, titled *A Sort of Homecoming*, at The MRT Gallery in Baltimore, Maryland. Also in March, he presented lectures titled "Sketchbook/Visual Journal Speed Dating" and "Confronting the 'One and Done' Mentality" at the National Art Education Association (NAEA) Convention in New York City. In addition to these lectures, Modler also facilitated workshops at the NAEA Convention including *The 7 Sacred Virtues-Mixed-Media Abstract Collaborations*, *tet[R]ad: Draw and Play Here*, and *Journal Fodder Junkies of the World Unite!*

Modler installed an exhibit of his work as part of a two-person show titled *Relationary Dialogues* at the Randolph Arts Center in Asheboro, North Carolina, in April and installed an interactive art installation called *Draw and Play Here: tet[r]ad Session #5* at The Center for Visual Arts in Greensboro, North Carolina, which invited the greater community to participate not just as art viewers but also as art makers.

In May he worked with Sarah Sullivan, artist/educator and her students at South Jefferson Elementary on an artist-in-residence grant project. Modler collaborated with the students in the art studio classroom in the creation of large-scale site responsive work that was installed in Shepherd's Phaze 2 Gallery during the summer.

Modler spent part of June in Hawaii facilitating a workshop at the Maui Cultural Arts Center for K-12 visual arts teachers. In August, he facilitated a professional development workshop for art educators in Harford County Public Schools, Maryland, on using the visual journal as a component in their curriculum.

Modler served as the on-site coordinator for the West Virginia Art Education Association Annual Fall Professional Development Conference, hosted by Shepherd in October.

DR. ELIZABETH PEREGO, assistant professor of history, received her doctoral degree from the Ohio State University in March and joined the Department of History in August. This past spring, she delivered a paper titled, "The Long Shadow of the 'Dark Decade': Problematic References to Algeria's Civil Conflict in Observations of the Country Today" at the Society for French Historical Studies' annual conference. Dr. Perego has also been invited to present papers on her research into Algerian cultural production from the country's post-independence past and its historical relevance at upcoming meetings for the Middle East Studies Association and the African Studies Association. At the African Studies Association conference in November, she will chair a panel on "Sources for New Histories." Dr. Perego will additionally be interviewed about her research on Maghribi comedy by Zineb Sedira, a promi-

nent Franco-Algerian artist who was nominated in 2015 for the Prix Marcel Duchamp. Portions of the interview will be aired as part of Sedira's installation, "Laughter in Hell," at the Sharjah Art Foundation in the United Arab Emirates in early 2018.

DR. SYLVIA BAILEY SHURBUTT, professor of English and coordinator, Appalachian Studies Program, presented two papers on Charles Frazier, the 2016 Appalachian Heritage Writer in Residence: "Conflict and Resolution in the Prose of Charles Frazier" at the Appalachian Studies Association Conference, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Virginia, March 12, and "Cold Mountain and the Eco-Environmentalism of Charles Frazier's Anti-war Fiction," at the College English Association Conference at Hilton Head, South Carolina, April 1.

Dr. Shurbutt and David O. Hoffmann's interview with Ron Rash has been published in the collection *Conversations with Ron Rash*, published by University Press of Mississippi. Also published in *American Literature, 1860-1960*, is Dr. Shurbutt's essay "Where Pain is a Mercy, Flannery O'Connor." The volume was published by Thomas Riggs & Company in 2017.

Dr. Shurbutt and **JESSICA KUMP** received word that their proposal for a fourth NEH Summer Institute for Teachers, Voices from the Misty Mountains has been funded for 2018 at \$145,000. The grant will bring 25 public school teachers to Shepherd University to study Appalachian culture next July. This past July also saw 25 teachers from across the nation come to campus to participate in programs that involved Shepherd employees **DR. JAMES BROOMALL**, **ED HERENDEN**, **PEGGY MCKOWAN**, **RACHAEL MEADS**, and **ADAM BOOTH**, and writers Silas House, and Nikki Giovanni. A highlight of the institute and community was the CATF performance of an original dramatic reading, "Chasing the Revolution, A Poet Revealed," written by Dr. Shurbutt and Giovanni. The play will be published in the Wiley Cash volume of the *Anthology of Appalachian Writers, Volume X*.

Dr. Shurbutt and the APST Board welcomed Adam Booth's Speak Story Series to the Appalachian Studies Program. Dr. Shurbutt was charged in August to travel to Paisley and Ayr, Scotland, to talk with the faculty of the University of West of Scotland about an exchange program with Appalachian Studies students. UWS informed her that they also want a cooperative exchange with the Appalachian Studies Graduate Certificate Program, and Shepherd students have already indicated their interest in this component of the Celtic Roots program.

RHONDA SMITH, professor of art and chair of the Department of Contemporary Art and Theater, had her work included in GLOW, a regional juried exhibit at the Athenaeum Gallery, Alexandria, Virginia, in September and October. The juror was Twig Mur-



David Modler



Dr. Elizabeth Perego



Dr. Sylvia Bailey Shurbutt



Rhonda Smith



Dr. John E. Stealey III

ray, director of the Athenaeum Gallery. Underwritten by TTR | Sotheby's International Realty, the Athenaeum Invitational is a theme-based event featuring the works of both specially-invited artists who have exhibited in the Athenaeum Gallery in the past, as well as works selected through a call for submissions open to anyone living or working in Virginia, the District of Columbia, West Virginia, or Maryland. This year's theme, GLOW, asked artists to create work that shows a sense of lightness or hope emanating from something dark.

Smith had work included in the exhibit Small Works/BIG IMPACT, a national juried art competition at the Gallery Underground, Arlington Virginia, in May. The juror was Narissa Steel, president of the Miniature Painters, Sculptors, and Gravers Society of Washington, D.C.

DR. JOHN E. STEALEY III, Distinguished Professor, Emeritus, of History, attended the Eighth Annual Meeting of the Society of Appalachian Historians, May 21-23, at Morehead State University, in Kentucky. The day before the meeting, he visited the nearby Kentucky Natural Bridge Resort at Slade, where his father spent the year 1933-34 in the Civilian Conservation Corp. Located in remote Appalachia, it was then far from being a resort.

On Saturday, June 10, Dr. Stealey delivered the keynote address at the open house of the George Tyler Moore Center for the Study of the Civil War in the backyard of the Conrad Shindler House on German Street. The title of the address was "How Stonewall Jackson Rode into Clarksburg: Statuary and Pathological Memory in West Virginia." Between 75 and 80 people attended the lecture.

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 reader of a submitted article. He filed a comprehensive narrative report with his recommendation. See "Editor's Annual Report, 2016-2017," *The Journal of American History*, Vol. 104, No. 2, (September 2017): 577-579.

The project director of Friends of Blackwater who is working on an interpretive project about the influence of Davis Coal & Coke Company activities in Tucker County, West Virginia, has asked Dr. Stealey to serve as a consultant. In 1966 and 1967, Dr. Stealey conducted extensive oral history interviews of retired bituminous coal miners in Davis, Thomas, and the surrounding West Virginia Highlands area.

DR. KEVIN WILLIAMS, professor of mass communications, has been working with the Shepherd University Foundation's WISH (Women Investing in Shepherd) initiative, editing video while working with student producers and students who taped crucial interviews. The trailer, shown at a celebratory meeting with WISH members, is an introduction to a documentary.

Dr. Williams is reaching new students by including and promot-

ing classes that allow junior high school students to attend classes such as the introductory course COMM 203 Communications and New Media. High school students may now enroll and receive credit working alongside students in COMM 360 TV Production. This way the department can educate, advertise, and utilize its TV studio to its fullest capacity.

Dr. Williams is serving as the videographer for the Martinsburg Initiative, which deals with opiate addiction in the Eastern Panhandle, and working with Martinsburg Police Department and Shepherd scholars on the project.

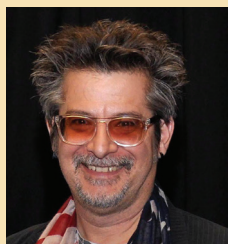
College of Business

DR. JANINE SCOTT, assistant professor of business administration, published an article in the *Australian Financial Planning Journal* titled "Consumers of Financial Advice in New Zealand" in August. Dr. Scott recently presented research at the Academy of Financial Services conference in Nashville, Tennessee, on October 1 and 2. Her paper, titled "Financial Capability: Literacy, Behavior, and Distress," touches on financial literacy. Dr. Scott is currently a board member of the Academy of Financial Services, serving as the 2018-2019 vice president of programs. In February 2018, she plans to attend the Certified Financial Planner Board Program Directors conference in D.C. She looks forward to working alongside colleagues in promoting and developing the CFP program at Shepherd.

DR. CINDY VANCE, assistant professor of accounting, completed her doctoral studies at Northcentral University and received a Doctor of Philosophy in business administration with a specialization in advanced accounting. Her dissertation was titled "The Effect of the Presence of Fraud and Auditor Certification Considering Professional Skepticism on Fraud Risk Assessment Performance." In April, Dr. Vance was inducted in the Phi Kappa Phi international honor society at Shepherd University. 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, 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.

College of Social and Behavioral Sciences

DR. ROBERT M. ANTHONY, assistant professor of sociology, published an article in *Urban Studies* titled "Forced urbanisation: A cross-national assessment of the effect of intranational political violence on a nation's largest cities." The article provides an in-depth empirical assessment of the impact that various kinds of political violence have on the growth of large cities in developing countries. In addition, it demonstrates the importance of assessing non-economic



Dr. Kevin Williams



Dr. Janine Scott



Dr. Cindy Vance



Dr. Robert M. Anthony



Dr. Heidi Dobish

models of internal migration, especially in the developing world where life and death situations shape how and to where internally displaced peoples migrate. See Dr. Anthony's research updates on Research Gate: www.researchgate.net.

DR. HEIDI DOBISH, associate professor of psychology, received a \$2,500 grant from the West Virginia Bureau of Senior Services for Shepherd's annual Aging Well Workshop, which is scheduled for May 8, 2018. This is the 10th year that Shepherd will host the workshop, which offers continuing education credits for social workers and is open to members of the community, including elders and their families. Dr. Dobish is serving as chair of the workshop committee.

DR. AART HOLTSLAG, associate professor of political science, was awarded the Women Investing in Shepherd (WISH) grant on behalf of the Shepherd Model United Nations Organization. The grant is for \$25,625 over three years and will support the Shepherd University Model U.N. team and organize a High School Model U.N. Conference on Shepherd University's campus. High school students will be brought to campus to compete, negotiate, and debate while also being introduced to Shepherd University and the possibilities it has to offer. Dr. Holtslag attended the International Studies Association's annual conference in Baltimore, Maryland, in the spring where he participated in the executive board meeting as the president of the Southern Region of the organization.

DR. CHIQUITA HOWARD-BOSTIC, associate professor of sociology and chair of the Department of Sociology and Geography, is providing leadership and social justice training to more than 40 high school students in Berkeley County. Her project Help Bridge (HB) Empowerment is offered at Martinsburg and Spring Mills high schools and is designed to cultivate student leadership through multiculturalism.

On September 23, Dr. Howard-Bostic participated on a panel at the first Multicultural Heritage Festival and Forum sponsored by Martinsburg Renew, Berkeley County Schools, and the Olweus Anti-Bullying Campaign. On October 26, she delivered the keynote address for Diversity Day at Meritus Medical Center in Hagerstown, Maryland. Dr. Howard-Bostic also was selected by NAACP Berkeley County as this year's keynote speaker for the Freedom Fund Dinner on November 19.

Dr. Howard-Bostic addressed the Shepherd community about the opioid epidemic during the annual Appalachian Heritage Festival on September 22, delivering the lecture, "At-Risk Communities in Appalachia: Drugs, Opioids, Families in Peril" in the Robert C. Byrd Center for Congressional History and Education. On October 17, the Department of Sociology and Geography sponsored the Anti-Human Trafficking 102 Teach-in in the Byrd Center where

Dr. Howard-Bostic facilitated the panel discussion about health and trafficking-related addictions. On November 17, two sociology majors will present a research poster and join Dr. Howard-Bostic at the Advena World Education, Research, Humanities, and Statistics International Conference in Washington, D.C. She will present findings from her study, "College Student Perceptions of Mandatory Volunteerism."

DR. ANN MARIE LEGREID, professor of geography and dean of the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences, recently participated in the Poverty Research and Policy Forum in Washington, D.C. on September 26. The theme was Geography of Opportunity. The event was sponsored by the Institute for Research on Poverty and the U.S. Collaboration of Poverty Research Centers Poverty and Geography Research Network.

Since last fall, **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 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 over the past couple months. 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 & Political Violence*, and co-written with Lance Hunter and David Bennett (Shepherd University English undergraduate), 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 the fall, Dr. Robbins participated in two separate conferences—the International Studies Association-South's conference held at Shepherd University and the Georgia Political Science Association's (GPSA) conference in Savannah, Georgia. Robbins presented one research project at the ISA-South conference and served as discussant for two additional panels. Meanwhile, at the GPSA, Dr. Robbins presented a paper he co-wrote with 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



Dr. Aart Holtslag



Dr. Chiquita
Howard-Bostic



Dr. Ann Marie Legreid



Dr. Joseph W. Robbins

(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 for a memorable visit (more details are available on the Department of Political Science's home page). 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*—his discipline's two flagship journals) and has been invited to participate in various focus groups and reviews through multiple publishers.

As the 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.

DR. STEPHANIE A. SLOCUM-SCHAFFER, associate professor of political science and co-coordinator of Gender and Women's Studies, gave an invited lecture to a group of political leaders from Nepal in Washington, D.C., on March 21. The lecture, which focused on the structure and politics of American government and the role of women in American politics, was organized by the U.S. Department of State's International Visitor Leadership Program's Change Makers: Women in Political and Social Sectors.

DR. RICHARD A. STEVENS, JR., acting dean of graduate studies and continuing education and program coordinator of the master of arts

in College Student Development and Administration program, was the keynote speaker and invited presenter at the Chesapeake and Potomac Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers annual conference in Laurel, Maryland, September 25 and 26. His keynote address was titled "Interrupting Bias in the Workplace: Impacts for Colleagues and Students." He also presented on creating a more welcoming space for LGBTQ+ students on campus. Dr. Stevens was made an honorary member of the association at the conference.

Dr. Stevens was an invited speaker at the Maryland College Personnel Association's annual conference on October 20 at Howard Community College where he addressed ACPA's Strategic Imperative for Racial Justice and Decolonization. At that same conference, he also presented a program titled "Addressing Racial Justice and Decolonization: Informing our Practice with LGBTQ+ Populations."

College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics

DR. JASON BEST, professor of astronomy and astrophysics and director of strategic research initiatives, served as invited keynote speaker and observation guide at the Morris College Total Solar Observation Program, held on August 21 in Sumter, South Carolina. In addition to presenting his public address "Five Billion Years in 200 Seconds," he served as master of ceremonies to a crowd of more than one thousand people as they viewed the first total solar eclipse to make landfall on the continental United States since 1979.

He was also asked by WEPM 93.7 news director Hans Fogle to appear on the show Panhandle Live in March. During a 30-minute interview, Dr. Best discussed recent exoplanet discoveries and how these provide more information about our own solar system, the nature of discovery in astronomy, science in the public sphere, and the importance of maintaining science funding as a national priority. He made a return trip to Panhandle Live in August, where he spoke about the facts and myths of eclipses, as well as the opportunities that such events provide for engaging the public, especially children, in a deeper understanding of the scientific process.

In addition, as part of his work with the Pulsar Search Collaboratory, Dr. Best attended the West Virginia University Center for Gravitational Waves and Cosmology's Advisory Board Meeting in May, and the 2017 WV EPSCoR NSF RII Track 1: Gravitational Wave Astronomy and the Appalachian Freshwater Initiative All-Hands Meeting in June. He subsequently served on the ad hoc Funding Sustainability Committee emerging from the latter meeting.

Dr. Best also addressed a delegation of advisors from the U.S. Department of State's EducationUSA higher education advising network in August. He spoke to the group about the importance of providing research opportunities to students across all disciplines

Shepherd UNIVERSITY

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Dr. Stephanie
Slocum-Schaffer



Dr. Richard A. Stevens, Jr.



Dr. Jason Best



Dr. Mohammadreza
Ghahremani

in order to prepare those students to better compete in a global economy, and how Shepherd engages students in such activities both internally and externally.

DR. MOHAMMADREZA GHAHREMANI, assistant professor of computer engineering, has the following publication in press: Amir Aslani, Mohammadreza Ghahremani, Ming Zhang, Lawrence H. Bennett, and Edward Della Torre, "Enhanced Magnetic Properties of Ni₅₁Mn_{33.4}In_{15.6} Heusler Alloy Nanoparticles," *IEEE Transactions on Magnetics*.

Dr. Ghahremani presented two research abstracts in a talk at the 62nd Annual Conference on Magnetism and Magnetic Materials (MMM) in Pittsburgh, November 6-10: Mohammadreza Ghahremani, Amir Aslani, Marjan Hosseinnia, Lawrence H. Bennett, and Edward Della Torre, "Direct and indirect measurement of the magnetocaloric effect in bulk and nanostructured Ni-Mn-In Heusler alloy" and Amir Aslani, Mohammadreza Ghahremani, Ming Zhang, Lawrence H. Bennett, and Edward Della Torre, "Field, temperature, and size effect on the critical points and magnetic properties of nanoparticles."

DR. JONATHAN GILKERSON, assistant professor of biology, received a \$30,095 grant from the West Virginia IDeA Network of Biomedical Research Excellence to purchase a Bio-Rad CFX384 Real-Time PCR Detection System. In his grant application, Dr. Gilkerson said the PCR will give students the opportunity to be trained in and exposed to the latest technology in order to be competitive in the job market and to attend graduate school. He estimates about 10 undergraduates each year will use the PCR extensively for their experiential learning research projects and up to 125 students a year will use the instrument for classes.

DR. LAURA ROBERTSON, assistant professor of biology, published a paper titled "RNA sequencing analysis of transcriptional change in the freshwater mussel *Elliptio complanata* after environmentally relevant sodium chloride exposure" in the journal *Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry*, March 31, 2017 (<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/etc.3774/full>).

DR. RALPH WOJTOWICZ, associate professor of mathematics, received a \$28,369 grant through the West Virginia IDeA Network of Biomedical Research Excellence (INBRE) for initial research projects. He will use the grant money to develop new data structures and algorithms for working with very large data sets and explore applications to bioinformatics. The research project will also explore storing data on DNA.

College of Education and Professional Studies

DR. ANDRO L. BARNETT, professor of recreation and sport studies, was selected in April to attend the NCAA Division II FAR Leadership Institute for faculty athletics representatives.

DR. LAURA CLAYTON, professor of nursing education, has received a \$422,135 interprofessional collaborative practice grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Health Resources and Services Administration to help diabetic patients at Shenandoah Community Health Center in Martinsburg. This is a renewal of a three-year grant, titled "CHOICES Program: Changing Health Outcomes for Patients with Diabetes through an Interprofessional Collaborative Practice Environment at Shenandoah Valley Medical System," that allows students from several departments at Shepherd and from the West Virginia University School of Medicine Eastern Division to collaborate with healthcare professionals at Shenandoah Community Health Center to provide care for diabetic patients.

DR. MARY HANCOCK was promoted to associate professor of nursing and elected the 2017-2018 Faculty Senate secretary. Her recent publication "The Use of WordPress in Online Focus Group Studies" in *The Qualitative Report* was chosen for a paper presentation at the upcoming Ninth Annual TQR Conference in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. Dr. Hancock was awarded a University of Phoenix School of Advanced Studies Alumni Research Fellowship. She will continue her research on the topic of male registered nurses and their employment choice, particularly when choosing a nursing specialty. Dr. Hancock will also further develop her qualitative research methodology and qualitative data saturation as noted in her previous publications and presentations.

As a member of the Winchester Medical Center RN Residency Advisory Board, Dr. Hancock spent much of her summer working with Winchester Medical Center in the development of their RN Residency Program. She also worked with the Association of Women's Health, Obstetric, and Neonatal Nurses (AWHONN) as a member of the Section Advisory Committee in the development of state leaders for the organization. She was recently appointed as a member of the Provost Search Committee.

Center for Teaching, Learning and Instructional Resources

DR. LOIS JARMAN, director of the Intensive English Language Program (IELP), and Maria Skowronski, M.A.T. student and IELP graduate assistant, attended the West Virginia Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages conference in April and were elected vice-president and secretary, respectively. The WVTESOL 2018



Dr. Jonathan Gilkerson



Dr. Laura Robertson



Dr. Ralph Wojtowicz



Dr. Andro L. Barnett



Dr. Laura Clayton

conference will be held at Shepherd University in March 2018. Dr. Jarman also represented Shepherd at the EducationUSA Forum in Washington, D.C., in late July 2018. EducationUSA is a program of the State Department designed to increase the presence of international students on U.S. campuses.

Administration

ACTING PROVOST SCOTT BEARD has been invited to serve on the Higher Education Advisory Panel convened by the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission at the request of Governor Jim Justice. The governor has directed the HEPC to conduct a comprehensive study of the structure and function of the state's public higher education system to ensure the long-term viability of the institutions. The National Center for Higher Education Management Systems (NCHEMS), an independent higher education policy and advocacy group, will conduct the study on the HEPC's behalf. The Higher Education Advisory Panel met in Charleston on September 27, at which time the NCHEMS researchers asked panelists for their insights into the challenges facing the state's public colleges and universities, students, and the state as a whole. The panel will meet again in Charleston on December 12 to review a copy of the draft report and offer suggestions for changes and improvements.

PRESIDENT MARY J.C. HENDRIX has published the following:

Bodenstine TM, Chandler GS, Seftor REB, Seftor EA, and Hendrix MJC. Plasticity underlies tumor progression: Role of Nodal signaling. *Cancer Metastasis Rev.* 35(1):21-39, 2016. PMID: 26951550

Margaryan NV, Gilgur A, Seftor EA, Purnell C, Arva NC, Gossain AK, Hendrix MJC, Strizzi L. Melanocytes affect Nodal expression and signaling in melanoma cells: A lesson from pediatric large congenital melanocytic nevi. *Int J Mol Sci.* 17(3):418, 2016. PMID:2701171

Hendrix MJC, Seftor EA, Seftor REB, Chao JT and Chu YW. Tumor cell vascular mimicry: Novel targeting opportunity in melanoma. *Pharmacol Ther* 159:83-92, 2016. PMID:26808163

Bodenstine TM, Chandler GS, Reed DW, Margaryan NV, Gilgur A, Atkinson J, Ahmed N, Hyser M, Seftor EA, Strizzi L, Hendrix MJ. Nodal expression in triple-negative breast cancer: Cellular effects of its inhibition following doxorubicin treatment. *Cell Cycle* 15(9):1295-302, 2016. PMID: 27007464

Williamson SC, Metcalf R, Trapani F, Mohan S, Antonellol J, Abbott B, Leong HS, Chester CP, Simms N, Polanski R, Nonanka D, Priest L, Fusi A, Carlsson F, Carlsson A, Hendrix MJC, Seftor REB, Seftor EA, Rothwell D, Hughes A, Hicks J, Miller

C, Kuhn P, Brady G, Simpson KL, Blackhall F, and Dive C. Vasculogenic mimicry in small cell lung cancer. *Nature Communications* 7:13322, 2016. PMID:27827359.

Galat V, Galat Y, Perepitchka M, Jennings LJ, Iannaccone P, Hendrix MJC. Transgene reactivation and reversion to pluripotency of iPSC-derived mesenchymal cells. *Stem Cells and Devel* 25(14):1060-1070, 2016. PMID: 27193052.

Khalkhali-Ellis Z, Galat V, Galat Y, Gilgur A, Seftor EA, Hendrix MJC. Lefty Glycoproteins in Human Embryonic Stem Cells: Extracellular Delivery Route and Posttranslational Modification in Differentiation. *Stem Cells Dev* 25(21):1681-1690, 2016. PMID: 27554431

Hendrix MJC, Kandela I, Mazar AP, Seftor EA, Seftor REB, Margaryan NV, Strizzi L, Murphy GF, Long GV, Scolyer RA. Targeting melanoma with front-line therapy does not abrogate Nodal-expressing tumor cells. *Lab Invest* 97(2):176-186, 2017.

Kalyan A, Carneiro BA, Chandra S, Kaplan J, Chae YK, Matsangou M, Hendrix MJC, Giles F. Nodal signaling as a developmental therapeutics target in oncology. *Mol Cancer Ther* 16(5):787-792, 2017. PMID:28468864

Margaryan NV, Seftor EA, Seftor REB and Hendrix MJC. Targeting the stem cell properties of adult breast cancer cells: Using combinatorial strategies to overcome drug resistance. *Curr Mol Bio Rep* 3:159-164, 2017.

Zhang M, Hendrix MJC, Pemberton PA, Sakr WA, Sheng S. An essential role of Maspin in embryogenesis and tumor suppression-response. *Cancer Res*, 2017, in press. PMID:28877938

Margaryan, N.V., Seftor, E.A., Seftor, R.E.B. and Hendrix, M.J.C. Heterogeneity and plasticity of melanoma: Challenges of current therapies. In: *Cutaneous Melanoma: Etiology and Therapy* (W.H. Ward, J.M. Farma, eds.), Codon Publications, Brisbane, Australia, 2017, ISBN: 978-0-9944381-4-0, in press.

Dr. Hendrix is currently serving on the research-related boards of American Association for Cancer Research, Annenberg Center for Health Sciences, Chicago Council for Science and Technology, National Disease Research Interchange, and Research!America.

JIM KLEIN, director of the Martinsburg Center, was named the chair of Eastern West Virginia Regional Airport Authority in July. Klein has served on the Airport Authority since June 2016 for a term that expires in June 2018. The authority maintains, supports, and operates the Eastern West Virginia Regional Airport with a goal of assuring that the airport stimulates business and enhances community development in the region.



Dr. Mary Hancock



Dr. Lois Jarman



Dr. Scott Beard



Dr. Mary J.C. Hendrix



Jim Klein