

Shepherd

UNIVERSITY

Magazine

Volume 24, No. 2 • Spring 2019

Outstanding Alumna of the Year
Francine Hykes Phillips '82



Homecoming 2018



CLOCKWISE, FROM TOP LEFT: Tailgating at Homecoming brings Ram fans together.

The Homecoming court takes a moment to pose with Rambo after being introduced on the field at Ram Stadium.

Shepherd's live ram mascot J.C. is surrounded by his young fans while he snoozes.

Alumni and friends line German Street to see the Homecoming parade.

The Shepherd University Foundation and Alumni Association sponsor the annual alumni breakfast on the front lawn of McMurrin Hall.

Outstanding Alumna Francine Hykes Phillips '82 takes part in the parade and waves to the crowd.

Photos by Cecelia Mason



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Editor and Art Director
Valerie Owens '76 and '86

Managing Editor
Monica Lingenfelter

Contributors this issue:
Chip Ransom '86, Kristin Alexander,
Cecelia Mason, Katie Gordon '12,
Zi Wang, Timothy D. Haines '95,
Meg Peterson, Stacy McFarland,
BreAnne Rugh '06, Cathy Nevy,
Sam Levitan, Jack Ransom, Michelle Maiden

Front Cover: Outstanding Alumna Francine Hykes Phillips '82.

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Back Cover: Students, faculty, and staff thank donors.

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ADDRESS CHANGES: Please contact BreAnne Rugh, Shepherd University Foundation database manager, 304-876-5195 or brugh@shepherd.edu.

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CLASS NOTES may be emailed to kswayne@shepherd.edu. The deadline for the fall 2019 issue is June 1. Digital images must be at least 300 dpi.

From the President

Shepherd's future looks bright

Following two decades of being the lowest funded baccalaureate institution in the state, Shepherd University FINALLY received an appropriations increase of \$3,012,287 and additional authorization for a one-time supplement of \$500,000, effective July 1, 2019. This critical funding represents a 31 percent increase in annual state appropriations and advances Shepherd from the 10th out of 10 ranking to fourth out of 10, based on funding per fully weighted in-state, full-time equivalent student.

Our local delegation in the House and the Senate worked very hard to secure this funding. Shepherd University is deeply appreciative for their deliberative efforts on our behalf. The Eastern Panhandle has several senators and delegates in important leadership roles in this year's Legislature, and all played persuasive roles in assuring Shepherd received this additional funding, and in particular the one-time \$500K (which not every college received). After two years of diligent discussions involving Shepherd's Board of Governors and leadership with our legislators—focused on the noteworthy disparity in funding—we have witnessed the most successful legislative session in Shepherd's history. We are grateful to our legislators, the Board of Governors, our students, staff, faculty, alumni and other supporters, who collectively advocated for the importance of investing in Shepherd University.

Data from a 2016 report by the West Virginia University Bureau of Business and Economic Research and data from a 2017 story by MetroNews show that Shepherd University has a return on investment (ROI) of \$9.73 for every dollar invested by the state. According to this analysis, Shepherd's ROI is better than that of Marshall (\$8.94) and Fairmont State (\$5.66), while WVU leads the list with an ROI of \$13.60 for each dollar invested. Shepherd is very proud to rank as number two on the ROI roster among distinguished colleagues, and the state will benefit from this wise investment based on Shepherd's record of ROI.

During the FY2019 academic year, while we strongly advocated for a fair funding model to guide current—and future—state appropriations, we also underwent academic restructuring. We are delighted to share our reorganization as follows: College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences with a Division of Arts and Humanities and a Division of Social Behavioral Sciences; College of Business; College of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics; College of Nursing, Education, and Health Sciences with a School of Nursing, a School of Education, and a School of Recreation, Sport, and Exercise Sciences; School of Graduate and Professional Studies; and the Ruth Scarborough Library and Center for Teaching, Learning and Instructional Resources.

Personally, I feel that Shepherd University is emerging from the adverse effects of two decades of underfunding—and is starting to embrace the “reversal of misfortune.” Our loyal faculty and staff are once again optimistic about the future and our ability to train the next generation of leaders, professionals, and model citizens—at this very special institution I remember attending. Thank you to everyone who helped us reach this extraordinary milestone. ■



Dr. Mary J.C. Hendrix '74

Shepherd–Penn State Law sign 3+3 accelerated bachelor/J.D. agreement

Shepherd University students interested in attending law school now have the opportunity to earn a bachelor's degree and gain early admission into Pennsylvania State University–Penn State Law through a new 3+3 accelerated bachelor/J.D. agreement signed by both schools.

The agreement guarantees that students will be able to use their first year of law school as their final year for the baccalaureate program at Shepherd through a curriculum Shepherd's Department of Political Science helped develop. The agreement allows exceptional third-year Shepherd undergraduate students to apply for early acceptance into Penn State's J.D. program.

To qualify, students must have completed all of Shepherd's graduation, distribution, major, and certification requirements at time of application; must have completed 75 percent of the course credits required to earn an undergraduate degree from Shepherd; must have a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.70 or higher; must have taken the Law School Admission Test (LSAT) and achieved a score in the top 30 percent of the national test takers; and must complete the Penn State Law application by March 31 of the student's third year at Shepherd. GPA and LSAT scores do not guarantee admission, but set the minimum threshold for acceptance.

“We were thrilled to receive the signed agreement from Penn State Law and look forward to advertising this opportunity and having our Shepherd students work toward admission to this prestigious program,” said Dr. Scott Beard, provost. ■

Agreement signed to recruit nursing students from China, Taiwan, and Hong Kong

Shepherd has signed a memorandum of understanding with Dimensional Learning Solutions and the internationally based ANL Health Solutions and Consultants to recruit nursing students from China, Taiwan, and Hong Kong.

“Having a cohort of international students will be enriching for our student experience and an opportunity for faculty to expand their international collaboration,” said Dr. Sharon Mailey, acting dean, College of Education and Professional Studies. “We're thrilled these R.N. to B.S.N. students have chosen Shepherd as we move into a more global area of care and practice.” Mailey said 10 students will attend Shepherd this summer and 10 more will arrive for the fall semester.

Based in Taipei, Taiwan, ANL is approved by the Ministry of Education in Taiwan to allow nurses to increase their nursing skills and to earn licensure in the United States. Students will take English language acquisition courses through Shepherd's Intensive English Language Program, as well as upper-level nursing courses, leading to the Bachelor of Science in Nursing. ■

Dr. Heidi Hanrahan is named 2018 West Virginia Professor of the Year

Dr. Heidi Hanrahan, professor of English, was named the 2018 West Virginia Professor of the Year by the Faculty Merit Foundation of West Virginia. Hanrahan was nominated by the university based on her achievements in teaching and her involvement on campus and in the community.

"It's a really nice honor," Hanrahan said about being nominated.

"We are thrilled that Dr. Heidi Hanrahan has been named the 2018 West Virginia Professor of the Year," said Dr. Scott Beard, provost, who himself was a finalist in 2009. "As a strong scholar, prize-winning outstanding teacher and advisor, and caring, contributing member of the university and surrounding community, Heidi was a natural choice. Her passion for teaching and helping students achieve their potential is evident in every course or project she works with. She creates an intellectually stimulating environment, one in which students recognize her engaging teaching style. Her teaching evaluations note that she's a 'star.' We couldn't agree more."

Aside from teaching English and literature classes, Hanrahan is advisor to Sigma Tau Delta English Honor Society, works with students on capstone projects, and helps them present at conferences and publish their work. She also works during summer advising and registration sessions.

“That personal involvement is one of the best parts of being at Shepherd. We get to work with great students, my colleagues are terrific, the staff is wonderful, and we have such a special relationship with the Shepherdstown community.” ■ **Dr. Heidi Hanrahan**

"Sometimes I will meet a student when they are here as juniors in high school for open house; then I'll meet them again when they register as incoming freshmen; and I'll work with them as they move through the curriculum and see them graduate," she said. "Being a part of all of those phases of their time at Shepherd is something I really love and take pride in. This is a job that I feel so lucky to have. It energizes me to work with students this way."

Hanrahan credits her own college experience with helping her become the person she is today. She describes herself as having been a shy and reserved teenager who was always good at school and who in college found her people, her voice, and her passions.

"I think it's wonderful to work with students at Shepherd who are in lots of ways similar and are finding what they can do well," Hanrahan said. "Many of the students I work with aren't English majors. I work with a lot of our core curriculum students, so I've had the pleasure of seeing students from all kinds of majors and disciplines really grow and thrive."



Cecelia Mason

Dr. Heidi Hanrahan

Hanrahan has taught many different courses and estimates she has touched the lives of at least 1,500 students since she started teaching at Shepherd in 2007.

"That personal involvement is one of the best parts of being at Shepherd," she said. "We get to work with great students, my colleagues are terrific, the staff is wonderful, and we have such a special relationship with the Shepherdstown community. Some of my recent work has really tried to connect what we do in the classroom and in our scholarship with the community."

Hanrahan has helped organize events such as a poetry festival involving high school students and a panel discussion to commemorate Frankenstein at age 200. She has appeared on local radio talk shows discussing Walt Whitman and Emily Dickinson and worked with her colleague, Dr. Carrie Messenger, associate professor of English, to organize a Jane Austen tea party. Hanrahan's goals as a teacher are to see students succeed academically and develop good reading, writing, and critical-thinking skills.

"If they can do that, they will succeed in any career path they choose," she said. "I also want students to really feel a love of literature that they will take with them beyond the classroom, and I want them to think about how what we do in the classroom connects to the outside world."

Hanrahan, a member of the Shepherd University Foundation Board of Directors, received the Outstanding Advisor Award in 2016 in recognition of her support, guidance, and exemplary knowledge of campus resources in working with student advisees and the Storer College Award in 2017 in recognition of her commitment to multiculturalism in the classroom and in her research.

When she's not teaching, Hanrahan can often be found cheering for the Rams at basketball, baseball, and softball games. She enjoys reading, going to movies, watching television, and walking around campus and Shepherdstown to exercise and think. Hanrahan and Dr. Amy DeWitt, associate professor of sociology, host and emcee a weekly trivia game every Tuesday night at Café Del Sol in Martinsburg.

Each year the Faculty Merit Foundation of West Virginia recognizes an outstanding faculty member at a West Virginia college or university. The finalists were honored at an April 9 banquet in Charleston. As Professor of the Year, Hanrahan received a \$10,000 cash award and a special handmade glass trophy from Blenko Glass Co. ■

Dr. Jim Cherry '96 named to Shepherd Board of Governors

DR. JAMES M. (JIM) CHERRY '96, a cancer scientist with the National Cancer Institute (NCI) in Frederick, Maryland, has been named to the Shepherd University Board of Governors for a four-year term by Governor Jim Justice.



Dr. James M. (Jim) Cherry '96

Cherry, who received his Bachelor of Science degree from Shepherd in 1996, serves as the scientific program director and scientific advisor, Office of Scientific Operations, Office of the Director at the National Cancer Institute. His field of study is in women's health, where he researches the molecular changes in ovarian tumor progression and has identified potential biomarkers that have proven useful in early diagnosis and prognosis that often elude detection until it has reached a very advanced stage.

He earned a Master of Science in molecular biology from Johns Hopkins University in 2000 and his Ph.D. in biology with a concentration in biomedical science from Catholic University of America in collaboration with the National Cancer Institute in 2007.

"We are most fortunate to have Dr. Cherry join the board at this time in Shepherd's history," said President Mary J.C. Hendrix. "His vision for excellence and strategic planning will help us transform our future."

Cherry joined QIAGEN in 2008 as a research fellow in its gene expression laboratory. Following his research fellowship, he was promoted to a research scientist in QIAGEN's research and development laboratory, where he worked on QIAGEN's SYBR-Green chemistry miRNA technology, miScript, for high-throughput molecular profiling. This newly developed automated application for gene expression was marketed to the biomedical research community, where QIAGEN's new product generated \$5.2 million in sales in year one.

Cherry was recruited back to NCI in 2010 as a scientific program director of the Advanced Technology Program (ATP), and the contracting officer representative for the \$800 million operational technical support contract for the NCI's Division of Intramural Research. ATP, now Cancer Research Technology Program (CRTP), is currently an \$18 million program that provides state-of-the-art technologies to NCI's principal investigators and postdoctoral and clinical fellows at NCI and other federally funded research institutes. Cherry established a \$4 million technology development effort for ATP in 2010. This program collaborates closely with NCI/NIH investigators to develop novel technologies in areas of biomedical research, including genetics/genomics, protein expression, proteomics, imaging (subcellular, cellular, and whole-animal), nanotechnology, genetically engineered animals, veterinary histology/pathology, and bioinfor-

matics. In addition to his responsibilities overseeing ATP, Cherry was named the scientific program director for the Laboratory of Animal Science Program and the Advanced Biomedical Computing Center in 2013.

Cherry has also served as the scientific advisor for NCI since 2010 for graduate, undergraduate, and high school students at NCI in both Bethesda and Frederick. During this time, he has established academic partnerships, internships, and capstone opportunities with several universities, including Shepherd, Hood, Mount Saint Mary's, Towson, and University of Maryland. ■

Academic reorganization to be implemented in August

Shepherd University has instituted an academic reorganization that realigns Shepherd's academic structure. The Shepherd University Board of Governors requested that the university examine its academic structure and approved the reorganization at its February 14 meeting.

An Academic Restructuring Committee, headed by Provost Scott Beard, developed and vetted potential academic models with the campus community. Last summer and early fall, President Mary J.C. Hendrix convened a special advisory group representing the Board of Governors, Deans Council, Faculty Senate, and tenured faculty to review the structure developed by the restructuring committee. Internal applicants interested in leadership positions in the new structure formally applied for the slots and participated in interview sessions held on campus in late February and early March.

A new College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences combines the College of Arts and Humanities with the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences. The new college will be headed by Dr. Rob Tudor as dean and Dr. Ann Marie Legreid as associate dean. The college has eight departments—contemporary art and theater; communication; English and modern languages; history; political science, geography, and global studies; psychology; social work; and sociology, criminology, and criminal justice—and a School of Music.

The new College of Nursing, Education, and Health Sciences (formerly the College of Education and Professional Studies) consists of a School of Nursing, School of Education, and School of Recreation, Sport, and Exercise Sciences. Dr. Sharon Mailey has been named the dean.

A retooled College of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics replaces the College of Natural Science and Mathematics and has four departments—biology; chemistry; computer science, mathematics, and engineering; and environmental and physical sciences. Dr. Robert Warburton has been named the dean of the college.

The College of Business, made up of academic departments business administration, economics and finance, and accounting and the Shepherd University Entrepreneurship Corporation, retains its dean Dr. Ben Martz and associate dean Dr. Kathy Reid.

(continued on page 9)

Dr. Sher Hendrickson to map Andean condor genome

Work by Dr. Sher Hendrickson, associate professor of biology, will soon lead to a genome for the endangered Andean condor. Hendrickson initiated and is leading the Andean Condor Genome Project as part of the effort to save the bird from extinction.

Among the groups involved in the project are the Andean Condor Conservation Program, which was founded in Argentina in the 1990s, and the San Diego Zoo's Frozen Zoo. Hendrickson said the genome could provide clues to how the condor adapts to its environment, which could help scientists devise strategies to save the species.

"Condors live at high altitudes, in hypoxic conditions. They are the largest flying bird, with a 10-foot wing span, and are scavengers," Hendrickson said.

"That lifestyle is going to affect things like metabolic and reproductive rates. Once we have the genome, we can start looking at some of these biological stories. We will also look at how birds that have been bred in captivity and introduced into the wild have contributed to the genetics in the wild populations."

The geographic range of the Andean condor stretches along the western mountains, beaches, and deserts of Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Chile, Bolivia, and Argentina to the Tierra del Fuego. Hendrickson's interest in the giant raptor started with her Ph.D. dissertation in the mid-1990s while getting her degree in evolutionary biology and genetics. Hendrickson worked with the Andean Condor Conservation Program, which was started at the now-defunct Buenos Aires Zoo. Scientists there developed an incubation program and techniques for puppet-rearing birds to avoid human imprinting so they could be released into the wild. They also rescued and rehabilitated wild condors. The condor conservation program wanted to know whether there were genetic differences between birds from various areas of the geographic range which could influence how successful reintroduction would be at saving geographically distant populations.

"I was looking at whether condors in the northern part of the Andes were genetically the same as those in the southern part of the Andes," Hendrickson said. "Whether, for example, a bird that was Argentinian and raised in the zoo could contribute to the population in Venezuela, or whether it would be a problem because it's genetically different."

Hendrickson's research took place before the Human Genome Project was completed in 2003, and her study found there was no genetic variation in the few genes she looked at, but she thought that was due to evolution and natural selection. With the advancements made in genomics in the past 16 years in which whole genomes can be sequenced, Hendrickson sees new opportunity to revisit the ques-



Photos courtesy Sher Hendrickson



ABOVE: Dr. Sher Hendrickson in Ecuador in the mid-1990s while conducting research on the Andean condor

LEFT: An Andean condor

tions she attempted to answer in the 1990s.

"In the '90s we had a single gene approach. Now we are able to assemble genomes that aren't human," Hendrickson said. "We have a lot of people working on non-humans who are just starting to figure out how to find genes in the genome that are really important for species survival. Conservation genomics is a brand-new field."

In light of the scientific advances that have been made, Hendrickson suggested starting the condor research again and taking an entirely new approach—beginning with mapping the Andean condor genome. Hendrickson's Laboratory of Genomic Diversity at Shepherd holds about 100 Andean condor samples that she collected during her previous research. She has been coordinating with the Andean Condor Conservation Project in Buenos Aires, where scientists are collecting samples from across the Andes, and the San Diego Frozen Zoo to begin the process of sequencing the Andean condor genome. Hendrickson sees a role for Shepherd research students as the project moves forward, and she'll have students in her Genomics and Bioinformatics class work with the new data.

"I can give the students raw, genetic data from the genome of an Andean condor to assemble," she said. "There's not a reference sequence because no condor has been done, so we have to build a de novo genome computationally."

Hendrickson is excited to be working on the Andean condor project again and believes saving the bird is vitally important because of its role in the culture of the region as a national symbol for all the countries it inhabits.

One of the places doing the most advanced work in conservation genomics is the Center for Conservation Genomics at the Smithsonian's National Zoo and Conservation Biology Institute. Hendrickson was recently named a research associate in the labs of Dr. Rob Fleischer, senior scientist and head of the Center for Conservation and Evolutionary Genetics at Smithsonian's Conservation Biology Institute, a position she expects will help as she moves forward with the condor research. ■ *Cecelia Mason*

Psychology students teach mindfulness to kindergarten students

Children in the three kindergarten classes at Shepherdstown Elementary School are learning special lessons from Shepherd students through a collaboration to teach mindfulness meditation techniques to the younger students. Dr. Anne Murtagh, associate professor of psychology, and Dr. Suzanne Offutt, retired principal of Shepherdstown Elementary, are leading the project, which includes collecting data on how the lessons are impacting the kindergarten students.

Murtagh said meditation is a set of techniques to train and focus the mind, and mindfulness involves tuning into the present moment with full awareness and without judgment.

"We teach the children to pause, breathe, listen, and try to quiet their minds a little," Murtagh said. "It is hoped that the kindergarten classes will establish a routine of mindful moments a few times a day, to pause and breathe."

Part of the training includes teaching the children basics about the brain and how in times of stress the "wise leader," or prefrontal cortex, is less in charge. By pausing and breathing, this wiser part of the brain can guide one's actions. Students also learn about mindful seeing, mindful movement, kindness, and gratitude.

Murtagh and Offutt have trained five Shepherd students in mindfulness, basic child development for kindergarteners, the ethics of working in a school with young children, and the practical aspects of visiting the school and kindergarten classrooms. The Shepherd students are leading 10 weekly lessons in each classroom using the MindUP curriculum, which is designed to help improve behavior and learning.

"The research suggests educating children in mindfulness can be helpful," Murtagh said. "Data show it can help with self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, and relationship skills."

"This program is research-based, and it's designed for implementation in schools," said Offutt, who incorporated mindfulness lessons into the curriculum before retiring in 2016. "We tried it in a couple of grades. I went in and taught and was really impressed with how well it worked."

The Shepherd students who are participating are enrolled in a Faculty-Led Research class and are collecting information about the effectiveness of the mindfulness lessons.

Students who are participating are psychology majors Taylor Carroll, Kearneysville; Alaina Hilditch, Falling Waters; Katlyn Brantner and Samantha Keplinger, both from Augusta; and Lacey Emry, Winchester, Virginia. They have been meeting every week to prepare the lessons.

"I thought participating in this would be a great way to implement something into my own future practice," said Carroll, who wants to become a child psychologist. "I enjoy helping the kids learn how to take their feelings and experiences and get them out positively."

Hilditch, who is also interested in a career in child psychology, said she understands children often need extra help because she has a friend who confessed he tried to commit suicide at age 7.

"That really opened up my mind to how children are affected by stress and by the things around them," Hilditch said. "There is a perception that children are resilient, and they are, but it's so vital

for us to give them the skills they need to fully become resilient."

Brantner, who wants to go into counseling, said she had not meditated before and this is her first experience working with Murtagh on a research project.

"I was just really excited to try to work with these kids," Brantner said. "They're really fun. They just want to learn everything."

Keplinger plans to go into child psychology and hopes to help and comfort children suffering from severe trauma.

"When I saw this opportunity, I thought that learning about mindful meditation further and learning all the techniques and how to teach it to children would be important for my field in the future," Keplinger said.

Emry said working with 5- and 6-year-old children is interesting. "You're in this room and trying to breathe for one minute, and you see how difficult that is for them to be in their own space and in their own skin for a minute," Emry said. "If we teach these children to become self-aware, I think they'll just skyrocket at every opportunity they have."

■ *Cecelia Mason*



ABOVE: Psychology students are teaching weekly mindfulness lessons to kindergarten students at Shepherdstown Elementary School. Pictured (seated, l. to r.) are Taylor Carroll, Kearneysville; and Lacey Emry, Winchester, Virginia; standing, Dr. Anne Murtagh, associate professor of psychology; Alaina Hilditch, Falling Waters; Katlyn Brantner, Augusta; Samantha Keplinger, Augusta; and Suzanne Offutt, retired principal of Shepherdstown Elementary School.

Master of Arts in Appalachian studies to be offered in fall

Shepherd will begin offering a new Master of Arts degree in Appalachian studies in fall 2019. The Higher Learning Commission recently gave final approval for the program.

“The new degree builds upon a number of nationally recognized programs at Shepherd, including the National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Institute, Speak Storytelling Series, Appalachian Heritage Festival and Writer-in-Residence program, West Virginia Fiction Competition, *Anthology of Appalachian Writers*, and a vibrant Appalachian Community Speakers series,” said Dr. Sylvia Bailey Shurbutt, director of Shepherd’s Center for Appalachian Studies and Communities.

Shurbutt said the new degree should appeal to students interested in improving their qualifications for the regional job market, those already working in a variety of areas such as education, politics and government, local and regional planning, economic development, historic preservation, and cultural and arts organizations, and those interested in understanding the region from a variety of historical, cultural, and global perspectives.

The Master of Arts degree in Appalachian studies is an interdisciplinary program requiring 30-33 credit hours. There are two concentrations, Appalachian history, culture or heritage, and preserving Appalachian communities, business development, and the environment. Students who have earned Shepherd’s 15-hour graduate certificate in Appalachian studies can apply all those credits toward completion of the master’s program.

Academic reorganization implemented

(continued from page 6)

The reorganization officially combines dean and acting dean positions to create a dean of Ruth Scarborough Library and Center for Teaching, Learning, and Instructional Resources. Dr. Laura Renninger was named dean.

The Division of Graduate Studies and Continuing Education was revamped as the School of Graduate and Professional Studies with Dr. Richard Stevens continuing as dean.

Additionally, Dow Benedict, the longtime dean of the College of Arts and Humanities, was named vice president for presidential initiatives and will serve as the faculty/academic liaison for the next capital campaign.

The new academic structure goes into effect on August 13. Deans will assume their duties July 1. ■



Cecelia Mason

ABOVE: Dr. Sylvia Bailey Shurbutt (c.), the director of the Center for Appalachian Studies and Communities who led the development of the new master’s degree, is shown with Dr. Richard Stevens (l.), dean of graduate studies, and Dr. Scott Beard, provost.

Students in the program must complete some form of community service and can choose to work for a semester in the region through an internship program or to study abroad in lieu of required electives. Students who select an optional semester studying at the University of the West of Scotland (UWS) have the opportunity to earn two master’s degrees, one in media studies from UWS and the other in Appalachian studies from Shepherd.

“Shepherd has a rich tradition of cel-

ebrating Appalachian culture,” said Dr. Richard Stevens, dean of graduate studies. “The Master of Arts degree in Appalachian studies builds upon and expands the great work of Shepherd as a whole and its successful nondegree Appalachian studies certificate as we formalize this learning to a brand-new graduate degree.”

“The new program offers outstanding opportunities that are particularly appealing and distinctive to those wishing to learn more about our region,” said Provost Scott Beard. “A signature feature of the new program includes study and field experiences both in Appalachia and abroad, our Appalachian Writer-in-Residence program that partners students directly with experts in the field, and the community service component. All these initiatives provide enhanced engagement opportunities as students become aware of the broad spectrum of Appalachian culture and needs of the community.”

For more information, contact Shurbutt at 304-876-5207 or sshurbut@shepherd.edu or Stevens at 304-876-5313 or rstevens@shepherd.edu. ■

Department of Social Work receives \$300K foster care training grant

A \$300,000 grant from the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources (DHHR) allows Shepherd's Department of Social Work to continue training prospective foster and adoptive parents in a 17-county area of West Virginia. ANGELA MERCER BENDER '99, Shepherd PRIDE site coordinator and trainer, hopes more people will step forward to take the training so they can help the increasing number of children who need foster care because of the state's opioid epidemic.

"We have more children who have been taken into custody by the state whose parents, due to an addiction, are unable to care for them," Bender said. "We have relatives who do step up and care for these children, but we have other cases where that's not a possibility."

PRIDE stands for Parent Resource for Information, Development, and Education. It's a seven-week course offering 21 hours of training for people interested in becoming foster or adoptive parents and for relatives who are caring for a family member who is in state custody.

Bender said the topics covered include the court process, attachment issues with children in foster care, how to meet a child's developmental needs, the loss and the grieving process, discipline and appropriate ways to handle behaviors, how to help children maintain a connection to biological family, and

“Foster care and adoption have been the greatest blessing of our lives, so I cannot say enough about what that journey has been for us. We have beautiful children and now beautiful grandchildren as a result.”

■ **Angela Mercer Bender '99**, who, along with her husband Matt, has fostered 15 children and adopted nine

race and ethnicity. Shepherd offers about 14 training sessions during a fiscal year, with about 20 people attending each session.

For Bender, being able to offer PRIDE training to prospective foster and adoptive parents is personal. She and her husband, Matt, completed the training in 2005 and since then have fostered about 15 children and adopted nine.

"Foster care and adoption have been the greatest blessing of our lives, so I cannot say enough about what that journey has been for us," Bender said. "We have beautiful children and now beautiful grandchildren as a result."

While foster care and adoption have been the perfect way to build her family, Bender said it's not a journey everybody will want to take.

"It can be a very difficult process," she said. "The first goal for children in need of foster care is to reunify them with their family. So, you have to be prepared to love and take care of somebody else's child and know it might not be forever."

Shepherd's grant is funded through Title IV-E of the Social Security Act and provides money for ongoing training to staff and supervisors of the DHHR Bureau of Children and Families. Shepherd has received it each year for 25 years, securing



Angela Mercer Bender '99

a total of more than \$3 million in outside funding support for the program and the university. Bender is glad the training can continue another year.

"We're always thrilled to see that investment being made in families and children," she said. "It's so vital to recruit and train families that can step in during this crisis that our state is experiencing with the opioid epidemic and the increased need for foster parents." ■

Social work students have 100 percent pass rate on national board test

Shepherd University social work graduates who took the 2017 Association of Social Work Boards had a 100 percent pass rate on the exam, which is higher than the North American pass rate of 71 percent.

Shepherd's Bachelor of Social Work (B.S.W.) exam pass rate has been higher than the North American pass rate for the past 13 years, according to Craig Cline, director of the Social Work Program. Cline said Shepherd's average pass rate for the past 10 years is 96 percent, which is significantly higher than the average North American pass rate of 71 percent for the same time period.

"As social work faculty, we're always delighted to see our students excelling in professional practice," Cline said. "Shepherd social work graduates are well prepared to sit for the B.S.W.-level exam. Their 600-hour senior field placement provides them many opportunities to apply curricular concepts to real-life situations."

Cline said the practical application of social work skills, knowledge, and values, coupled with the Social Work Program's emphasis on ethical practice, sets the stage for their success.

"Of course, it is ultimately our students' determination and dedication to the profession that enables them to achieve success on the licensing exam," he said. ■

Shepherd, Loyola Chicago awarded grant to create historical database

The Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture at the College of William & Mary has awarded Dr. Benjamin Bankhurst, assistant professor of history at Shepherd University, and Dr. Kyle Roberts, associate professor of public history and new media and director of the Center for Textual Studies and Digital Humanities at Loyola University Chicago, with a \$5,000 Lapidus Digital Collections Fellowship for The Maryland Loyalist Project. The project is a collaboration between Bankhurst and Roberts that aims to make the letters and petitions of British loyalists who fled the American Revolution housed in the British National Archives available in a digital archive.

The grant will provide undergraduate students at Shepherd and Loyola the opportunity to develop in-demand skills in the digital humanities, such as web design, transcription, mapping, and visualization, while they help create a website that will provide scholars and the public with online access to rare manuscript records from the Parliamentary Loyalist Claims Commission held by the National Archives at Kew, England.

Students in an American Revolution course jointly taught by Bankhurst and Roberts meet each week via online video conference and are learning how to transcribe original documents to recover the stories of individual loyalists. They will help design and upload the transcriptions, along with images of the originals, to a new website and will write research papers that

might also appear on the site. The grant also provides money for a Shepherd and Loyola intern to continue work developing the website over summer 2019.

Loyalists, the women and men who chose to stay loyal to the British Crown during the American Revolution, have been the subject of a resurgence of scholarly interest over the past decade. The loyalists were previously dismissed as the losers in the conflict, but scholars have turned their attention to those who separated themselves from their friends and neighbors and gave up their land and possessions when they chose to leave the new United States at the end of the American Revolution. The story of that difficult decision recorded in the Loyalist Claims Commission is one that has been largely overlooked since the end of the war.

The Maryland Loyalist Project comes out of collaboration between Bankhurst and Roberts in teaching an innovative digital history course on the American Revolution. This upper-division course brings together Shepherd and Loyola students to learn about the American Revolution through lecture, discussion, and a series of individual and group digital projects. Class meetings are held alternately in connected classrooms and online so that students can benefit from lecture and conversation with multiple



Dr. Benjamin Bankhurst

Cecelia Mason



Dr. Tom Segar and Autumn Perry '09 M.A.

VP Tom Segar wins distinguished service award

Dr. Tom Segar, vice president for student affairs, was awarded the 2018 Stella Cooksey Distinguished Service Award by the West Virginia Association of Student Personnel Administrators (WVASPA).

The award is given each year to a student affairs professional who has made significant contributions to a West Virginia institution of higher education over an extended period of time. Nominees are evaluated on service to a state college or university and to WVASPA through leadership, committee work, and contributions to the field of student personnel through teaching, administration, or research.

"Through his leadership in student affairs, Dr. Segar has positively impacted colleagues and students not only on his own campus, but across the state," said Autumn Perry M.A. '09, immediate past president. "From his teaching of future student affairs professionals at Shepherd, to his work with statewide initiatives such as the West Virginia Student Leadership Conference, his contributions to the field are far-reaching. This award is certainly well-deserved." ■

faculty and a range of guest speakers. Throughout the semester, teams of students from Shepherd and Loyola blog about important topics in the American Revolution from the perspective of different historical figures.

"Students from Shepherd and Loyola universities are really fortunate to have the opportunities being provided through the American Revolution class," said Claire Tryon, a senior history major at Shepherd. "I think working directly with documents such as those from the Loyalist Claims Commission will give us a more profound expansion of these individuals' perspective through the intimate experience of reading their thoughts, having to decipher for ourselves the emotions and implications, and our critical analysis."

"I am looking forward to gaining a better insight into a period of history that is so integral to our American experience as well as other nations at the time," said Paul Witry, a senior global and international studies and political science major at Loyola. "By taking part in this research process, our joint classes have the opportunity to offer a voice to those who are no longer living and shed light on subjects previously unknown."

Bankhurst and Roberts have both researched and written extensively on the history of North America and the Atlantic world in the 18th-century. This is their second time teaching this course.

The Lapidus Initiative for Excellence and Innovation in Early American Scholarship is funded by Sid and Ruth Lapidus. ■

Alumni

Francine Phillips '82 named Outstanding Alumna of the Year

Outstanding Alumna of the Year FRANCINE HYKES PHILLIPS '82 was first introduced to Shepherd during her high school years. Francine, who grew up in Greencastle, Pennsylvania, played the oboe. During the summer, she and a friend who also played oboe took private lessons from Dr. K. Farrell Coy, professor emeritus of music, who taught at Shepherd from 1967-1998.

"Our mothers would take turns driving us to Shepherdstown," Francine said. "His office was in McMurrin Hall. While we were waiting, we would go to Betty's Restaurant, so I only knew McMurrin and Betty's for a long time."

Francine said when the time came to apply to colleges, she remembered how she liked the feel of Shepherd, so that's the school she chose to attend.

"Shepherd did so much for me when I came here 40 years ago," she said. "I was just 17 and I really hadn't been away from home. It was the first time I was really in a position to take care of myself, and the campus was just so supportive. I still remember advisors and faculty members who were very nice and helpful."

In the years since she graduated, Francine has worked to pass the support she received along to other students at Shepherd.

"I just feel that kids are so young when they come here and I think it's important to be supportive of folks who are away from home and might not have anyone close by," she said.

Francine lived on campus, first in Gardiner Hall and then in Turner Hall, through her sophomore year. During her last two years, she rented an apartment in town. While Francine had been involved with a lot of activities in high school, including cheerleading and band, during college she didn't participate in extra-curricular activities. A self-described "library geek," Francine spent a lot of time in the library and focusing on her studies.

After graduating with a B.S. in business administration from Shepherd, Francine earned a Master of Business Administration degree from Shippensburg in 1984. She then took a full-time position teaching accounting at Shepherd, where she was active helping with club events such as Midway activities during Homecoming and judging the annual talent show. After teaching at Shepherd for two years, she took a job at Hood College in Frederick, Maryland, where she was expected to earn a terminal degree. Francine wasn't interested in pursuing a Ph.D. in accounting, so her husband, John, suggested she apply to law school. Francine earned her law degree from the West Virginia University College of Law in 1996, graduating Order of the Coif.

"I loved it," she said. "It was just a great academic experience. It was really different from anything I had done before."

In her first law job at a Martinsburg firm, Francine learned she really enjoyed practicing criminal law. For 21 years, Francine has worked at Public Defender Services for the 23rd Judicial Circuit, which covers Jefferson, Berkeley, and Morgan counties. She is currently the managing public defender in the Jefferson County office. Helping disadvantaged clients who are facing legal challenges is a mission she truly believes in.

"Most of our clients are just poor and they've never really had



Cecelia Mason

ABOVE: Outstanding Alumna Francine Phillips '82 (c.), escorted onto the field at Homecoming by Alumni Association President Jim Auxer '69 and Kim Hutto, director of alumni affairs, waves to the crowd in Ram Stadium.

any guidance," Francine said. "The job is more about defending the Constitution than defending an individual. The job requires making sure the system is doing what it's supposed to do and people aren't being disadvantaged by mistakes that are made by police officers, lab technicians, or prosecuting attorneys."

Francine didn't think she'd teach again after earning her law degree, but one day she ran into the late Dr. V.J. Brown, professor emeritus of sociology, who taught at Shepherd from 1971-2008. Brown suggested she help put together Shepherd's criminal justice concentration.

"I became active in developing that program and have been teaching in it ever since," she said. "I have a lot of war stories and I know how the system works, at least in this circuit. Students like the reality of the examples I give. They have a lot of questions about how I can work as a public defender and what I do if I know someone is guilty. I didn't have that kind of experience teaching accounting!"

Francine teaches Principles of Criminal Law, Introduction to Criminal Justice, and occasionally Criminal Court System. Through her connections with law enforcement and local prosecutor's offices, she is able to help Shepherd students find internships, and interns from the criminal justice program usually work in her public defender's office.

"Now that internships are pretty much required in all the disciplines, there are only so many opportunities out there, so sometimes it's difficult for students to connect with folks who are looking for interns," she said. "I am happy to help students find internships."

In addition to teaching and fostering internships, Francine has served on the Shepherd University Alumni Association Board of Directors since 2011. She is currently the board's secretary. She has helped with the annual golf tournament and been supportive of association-sponsored student activities. She's also been active in the community over the years, serving in various capacities for the Corporation of Shepherdstown, on the board of the Eastern Panhandle Empowerment Center (formerly the Shenandoah Women's Center), and volunteering for organizations such as the United Way of the Eastern Panhandle and Shepherdstown Ministerial Association. ■ **Cecelia Mason**

Outstanding Alumna, inaugural class of Finest Under 40 honored during Homecoming

Four younger alumni were honored as members of the inaugural class of the Finest Under 40 alumni recognition award, along with 2018 Outstanding Alumna FRANCINE HYKES PHILLIPS '82 during Homecoming week.

Named as the Finest Under 40 were JENNIFER FLORA '06 and '08 M.B.A.; TAMIA HARDY '16 and '17 M.B.A.; BRANDON DENNISON '08; and ELIZABETH MCCORMICK '14. Dennison and McCormick were unable to attend the ceremony.

Nominations are being accepted for both the 2019 Outstanding Alumnus/Alumna and Finest Under 40 honorees. The nomination criteria and forms are available at www.shepherd.edu/suaa/alumni-recognition-programs. ■

CLOCKWISE, FROM TOP: 2018 Outstanding Alumna Francine Hykes Phillips '82 (c.) was presented her award by Alumni Association President Jim Auxer '69 and Shepherd President Mary J.C. Hendrix '74 during a ceremony held at Erma Ora Byrd Hall.

Tamia Hardy '16 and '17 M.B.A. (c.) is awarded her Finest Under 40 plaque by Auxer and Hendrix.

Jennifer Flora '06 and '08 M.B.A. (c.) receives her Finest Under 40 award.

Elizabeth McCormick '14, who was unable to attend the Homecoming ceremony, poses with her Finest Under 40 award on the front lawn of McMurran Hall.



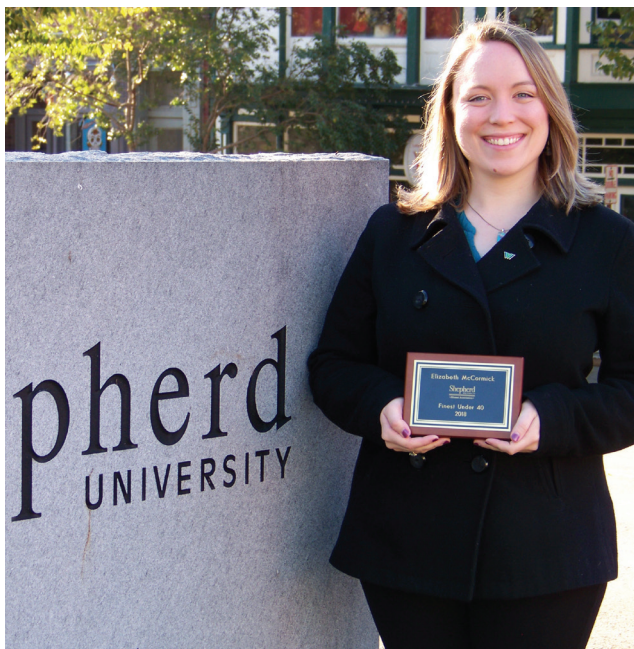
Sam Levitan



Sam Levitan



Sam Levitan



Katie Gordon

Class Notes

'65 WILLIAM "RIC" HUTTERLY was inducted into the Western State Colorado University Athletic Hall of Fame as the head swim coach of the 1967-68 nationally ranked swim team. His team finished ninth in the nation, had eight All-Americans, two All-American divers, and one record-breaking national champion in the 200-yard backstroke. Although a small college team, Western State competed against and beat many Division I teams. Ric and his team were introduced during halftime at the September 14, 2018, football game, as well as being recognized during Friday night and Saturday morning induction ceremonies. Ric was on three Shepherd WVIAC championship teams and won many conference crowns in individual events. He graduated from Shepherd with a degree in education.

'67 NEAL STORRS published three books in 2018: *In Times of War* is an adventure novel set in Palestine and Europe from 1928-1948; *I Remember You* is a memoir about the life of composer Johnny Mercer, co-written with Mercer's daughter; and *A Cat's Tale* is a humorous narrative poem. All three books are available in both eBook and paperback format through Amazon, together with six of Neal's stories in the literary magazine *Spot Lit 2018*.

'80 MERRELL D. WILSON, a business administration graduate, has written two books for Amazon Kindle e-readers: *The Correct Military Strategy for the Vietnam War: And Many*

of Your Other Military Historical Questions Answered and *United States Utopia: How to Improve and Enhance the United States of America and its Society*. Both books are available for purchase through Amazon on Kindle e-books, as well as in paperback form.

'97 ANTIONETTE D. MARCHETTE-FUNK completed her doctoral degree in administrative leadership at Shenandoah University in 2017. Antoinette focused her research on response to intervention practices specific to reading in general education and special education. She has presented at both national and international conferences on reading and special education issues. She was awarded the West Virginia Principals' Leadership Academy Distinguished Scholar in 2014. Her professional experience includes teaching, assistant principal, and principal positions in Virginia and West Virginia. She is a staunch advocate for special needs services and inclusion. She served eight years as a Samuels Public Library Board of Trustee and as chair and vice chair of her local special education advisory council. Her current role is principal of Pikeside Learning Center Pre-K and assistant director of Pre-K programs with Berkeley County Schools. Antoinette is a founding member of LLINC, LLC, an educational consulting and support firm, scheduled to launch in 2019.

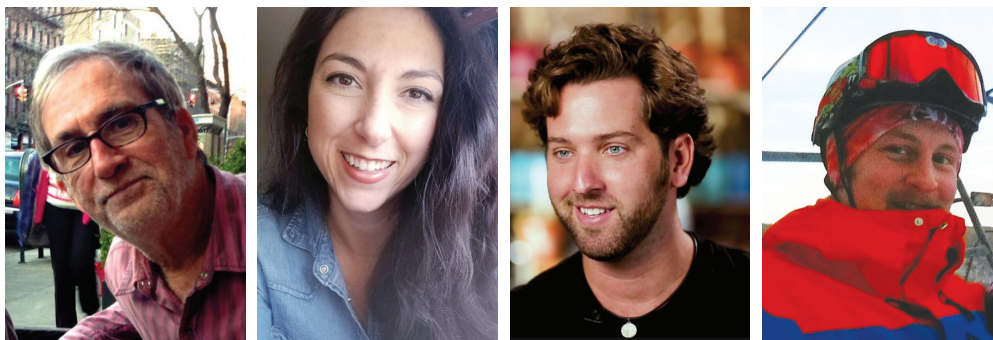
'00 PASCHA ADAMO has a newly published children's board book series titled *CeCe & Roxy Books*. The series follows a biracial girl, CeCe, and her interracial family and the everyday adventures they have with their newly

fostered pit bull, Roxy. The full story of the journey can be found on the official website, www.ceceandroxybooks.com.

Pascha graduated from Shepherd with a bachelor's degree in psychology and a minor in education with a concentration in child development. While at Shepherd, she was actively involved as a leader in many organizations which made it an easy transition to return as the assistant director of student affairs years later. Pascha went on to receive her master's degree in secondary education, an additional degree in mathematics, and a teaching certificate from WVU after alternating between being an assistant director of student activities in higher education and being a middle school mathematics teacher. Married and the mother of two toddlers, Sophia, 4, and Judah, 2, Pascha teaches group fitness classes.

'01 JUDEE ANN WILLIAMS has been appointed to Save the Children Board of Trustees. Save the Children is an international humanitarian organization dedicated to the mission of giving children in the United States and around the world a healthy start, the opportunity to learn, and protection from harm. The board of trustees is made up of 32 individuals who uphold that mission.

Judee works as co-head of Creative Arts Agency (CAA) Social Impact with public and private sector companies to develop, implement, and market their philanthropic, social responsibility, and cause-related initiatives. She previously worked in the CAA Foundation for 15 years as the department's co-executive director. She is a prominent member of the philanthropic community, holding various leadership positions on several boards



ABOVE: Neal Storrs '67, Pascha Adamo '00, Matt Long '07, and Philip Rekitzke '09

and advisory councils. These include Carrie Underwood's C.A.T.S. Foundation, Katy Perry's Fireworks Foundation, First Book, and the USO Entertainment Council. Judee received her bachelor's degree from Shepherd in political science with a minor in business. She is originally from Hurricane.

'03 JASON BUHI graduated with a Ph.D. in constitutional law from the University of Hong Kong while completing four years of teaching at the Peking University School of Transnational Law in Shenzhen, China. He is proud to have participated in Hong Kong's 2014 pro-democracy Umbrella Movement. Jason will now be teaching U.S. constitutional law, comparative constitutional law, and election law at the Barry University Dwayne O. Andreas School of Law in Orlando, Florida. At Shepherd, Jason was a member of Phi Kappa Phi, a McMurrin Scholar, and received the Lurry Class, Burkhart, Shaw Leadership, and Hafer scholarships.

'07 MATT LONG, of Frederick, Maryland, has earned a spot among 11 other artists as a designer of the next generation of Sheetz fleet tractor-trailers. Matt earned his bachelor's degree in fine arts/graphic design from Shepherd. He previously worked for Bechtel as an in-house designer, but has been doing freelance work since the company left Frederick in 2014. Matt has designed projects for local events, such as the Celebrate Frederick Holiday Art Show, and regional events like the 2015 Western Maryland Blues Festival. The latter project is what connected Matt with the Washington County Arts Council, and subsequently the Sheetz Art Project. Winners of the Sheetz project receive \$25,000 and have their designs featured on Sheetz's fleet of semi-trucks. The company will also incorporate the winning artwork on swag and merchandise, as well as having the designers' faces printed on the trucks themselves. It took Matt about a week to put together the initial proposal and another few days to hear back that he made it to the second round. He then spent more hours perfecting his design. The company's only direction was for the designers to show-

case what Sheetz mean to them, so Matt blended his psychedelic style with the emotion of a Sheetz pitstop. The winning design features a whirling pattern of winged hearts and treble clefs with hidden black-eyed Susans, a nod to the state of Maryland. In August and September 2018, Matt spent a few weeks collaborating with Sheetz to finalize the design for the fleet. His artwork will be featured on a total of 18 trucks and stay there for the foreseeable future. Matt was recently invited to paint a car mural for the Washington Auto Show, and is working on a few custom surfboard designs for a shop in Cape May, New Jersey.

'08 LAURA HARKINS KELLY is the wellness coordinator at Sterling Estates East Cobb senior living community in Marietta, Georgia. Laura is passionate about assisting older adults and focuses on activity and recreational therapy. She believes in active aging through a social model and taking time to build relationships with residents. While at Shepherd, Laura was a member of the women's basketball team and received the Moler Athletic Scholarship. She was a member of the Phi Kappa Phi honor society and is a McMurrin Scholar. She graduated with a degree in recreation and leisure studies.

'09 PHILIP REKITZKE graduated from Colorado State University's graduate-level program in ski area management in May 2018, the only graduate-level program of its kind. In July 2018, he was offered a management position with Bogus Basin Mountain Recreation Area in Boise, Idaho, and moved there with his wife and two children. He graduated from Shepherd with a bachelor's degree in recreation and leisure studies.

'12 MICHAEL REED BAILEY was elected commissioner for the Town of Walkersville in Frederick County, Maryland, in the September 2018 election. Michael, who works for the federal government, received 277 votes. Commissioners serve three-year terms. Michael graduated from Shepherd with a bachelor's degree in psychology.

JESSICA SALFIA '12 M.A., an 11th grade writing teacher at Spring Mills High School, was honored for the third year in a row as a West Virginia Governor's Honors Academy Outstanding Educator. She was also the 2016 Berkeley County Teacher of the Year and in April 2016 received the Stephen L. Fisher Award for Excellence in Teaching. As one of the leaders of the 2018 West Virginia teacher work stoppage, she co-authored a book that tells the teachers' stories, *55 Strong, Inside the West Virginia Teacher's Strike*. Along with fellow teacher Karla Hillard, she has revitalized the West Virginia chapter of the National Council of Teachers of English. Jessica is a fiction writer and multiple winner and finalist of the West Virginia Fiction Competition.

'14 KEVIN PAWLAK has published a book, along with co-author Robert Orrison, titled *To Hazard All: A Guide to the Maryland Campaign*, through Savas Beatie LLC independent publishing. The book traces the routes both armies traveled during the Maryland Campaign, ultimately coming to a climactic blow on the banks of Antietam Creek. Kevin, who graduated from Shepherd with a degree in historic preservation, received the G.D. Bragaw Scholarship. He was also a member of Phi Kappa Phi honor society. He currently is the director of education for the Mosby Heritage Area Association and works as a licensed battlefield guide at Antietam National Battlefield. Kevin serves on the board of directors of the Shepherdstown Battlefield Preservation Association and the Save Historic Antietam Foundation. His first book, *Shepherdstown in the Civil War: One Vast Confederate Hospital*, was published by History Press in 2015.

'17 DANIEL SWEENEY passed the Uniform CPA Exam and is now a licensed certified public accountant (CPA) by the West Virginia Board of Accountancy. A McMurrin Scholar, Daniel graduated from Shepherd with a degree in both accounting and business administration and is a staff accountant for Decker & Company PLLC in Martinsburg. He is responsible for individual and business income taxes, auditing, and small business services. ■

Jim Auxer '69 exemplifies both town and gown as mayor of Shepherdstown and president of the Shepherd Alumni Association

The Shepherd University Alumni Association and the town of Shepherdstown have one thing in common—they are both being led by ARTHUR J. “JIM” AUXER '69. Jim, who is the town's mayor, is also the president of the Alumni Association, and he thinks the two jobs complement each other quite well.

“I would like everybody to care about Shepherd University as much as I do. I want them to feel that in their hearts,” Jim said. “The same with the town. It's a great place to live, and students aren't always anxious to leave here. They hang onto friends and work several jobs at town businesses just to stay here.”

Jim, who grew up in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, is among the students who hung onto friends from his college years and that influenced him to move back to Shepherdstown.

“This was a good place in my life, and my friends, whom I've known 50 years, are here,” he said.

Jim attended Shepherd on a football scholarship, playing for the Rams from 1965-1968 as a four-year starter, gaining all-conference honors and serving as captain of the 1968 team.

“Obviously, football was important and I did learn from that,” he said. “I learned the value of wanting to succeed and being a member of a team. I was the first person in my family to attend college. So that was a big deal. It gave me academic and social skills and all the things that come with learning about life.”

Jim was also a member of Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity. He earned a B.A. in elementary education and after graduation taught elementary school and coached high school football in Northern Virginia. He left teaching to earn his master's in education from Shippensburg University, where he also worked as a graduate assistant in an elementary teaching lab, which led to a second career in counseling. From 1972-1999, Jim worked as a counselor at Camp Hill State Prison in Harrisburg, spending the last eight years managing Pennsylvania's Super Maximum Prison Unit.

In 1999, Jim returned to Shepherdstown. He was employed by the Washington County, Maryland, Detention Center for 10 years as a mental health counselor. In 2009, he accepted the position as vice president of mental health services for Prime Care Medical, which provides mental health and medical services in the West Virginia jail system. Jim retired in July 2018. He has served as mayor of Shepherdstown twice—from 2000-2004 and from 2008 until present.

In 2009, Jim was honored as Shepherd's Outstanding Alumnus of the Year

and in 2012 received the President's Medal. Jim was given the Medallion Award during the 2018 Shepherd Hall of Fame ceremony for being an ardent and dedicated supporter of Shepherd athletics, and he is a founding member of the Gridiron Club. Jim was also named a 2018 Distinguished Volunteer by the Association of Fundraising Professionals VA, Tri-State Chapter in recognition of National Philanthropy Day. Jim serves on the Shepherd University Foundation Board of Directors and prior to serving as the Alumni Association Board of Directors president was involved as a member since 2006, helping with events.

“Right now, town-and-gown relations are the best they've ever been and they continue to improve,” Jim said. “We have an alumna as president and it is great for the university and town. I think that's made a difference in our interactive success.”

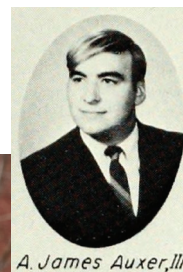
Jim, who is the first Shepherdstown mayor to be a Shepherd alumnus, sees his role as Alumni Association president as a way to continue fostering those good relations and to promote the university.

“As president of the association, I'm encouraging the alumni board of directors to go out there and sell Shepherd University,” he said. “We're all salesmen. Recruitment is so important to us. Get out there and tell people what a great place Shepherd University is. Come to events and show how you feel about being a Shepherd alum.”

In Jim's mind, the success of the town and the university are intertwined and come together for the “common good.”

“It's a symbiotic relationship,” he said. “People want to come to Shepherdstown in part because of the university. Just think of the arts and music and Byrd Center presentations that the univer-

(continued on next page)



Cecelia Mason

RIGHT: Jim Auxer '69 at McMurran Hall and (inset) his photo from the Cohongoroota yearbook.

Jim Auxer

(continued from previous page)

sity provides—plus the athletics. There's some event at Shepherd almost every day that people in town can attend and learn from. The university benefits because when students come here to visit Shepherd, their parents come to the town. They see what a great place it is, how welcoming it is, how clean it is, the importance of being the oldest town in West Virginia, and the atmosphere. There isn't anybody who doesn't love Shepherdstown. Shepherdstown helps a great deal in facilitating recruitment and enhancing Shepherd students' success."

■ **Cecelia Mason**



ABOVE: SHANNON PHIFER '14 married Tony Ciampa on March 24, 2018 in Frederick, Maryland. They are expecting their first child in June.

Join an alumni regional community

A regional community is a Shepherd alumni group within a specific geographical region that promotes personal and professional opportunities for lifelong connections to Shepherd and to fellow alumni. Communities are led by active volunteers called Alumni Ambassadors who plan and promote activities and services meaningful to their unique community. Community activities include social, cultural, and educational events, community service projects, and networking opportunities. To learn more about a group in your area or to become a regional Alumni Ambassador, visit www.shepherd.edu/suaa/regional-communities, or contact Kim Hutto at 304-876-5157 or khutto@shepherd.edu. ■

63rd annual Emeritus Club luncheon slated for May 9

The 63rd annual Emeritus Club luncheon and induction ceremony is right around the corner. The Emeritus Club is for all alumni who have reached their 50-year graduation anniversary and beyond. This year the Class of 1969 will be inducted into the club.

Thursday, May 9, 2019

10:30 a.m.—Social Hour, Student Center Ram's Den, first floor

11:30 a.m.—Lunch and Program, Student Center Storer Ballroom, third floor

Club members are invited to take a campus trolley tour following lunch.

Formal invitations have been sent with how to RSVP. Visit www.shepherd.edu/suaa/upcoming-events-2 for more information. ■

Alumni: Recommend new students and get their application fees waived

Alumni who refer a new student to apply to Shepherd can get that student's application fee waived.

Contact the Office of Alumni Affairs at 304-876-5157 or the Office of Admissions at 304-876-5212 to inquire about application fee waivers. ■



The Shepherd University Alumni Association is taking its first **Roaming Rams** trip to Scotland in September.

Keep an eye out for pictures and updates from the trip on social media. Visit www.shepherd.edu/suaa/roaming-rams-alumni-travel-program for information on future excursions.

Questions:

Call Kim Hutto at 304-876-5157, or email khutto@shepherd.edu.

Obituaries

RUTH M. CONARD '45, of Timonium, Maryland, died August 20, 2018. She was born and raised in Shepherdstown and graduated from Shepherdstown public schools. Ruth received her first bachelor's degree from Marion College, now Roanoke College, in 1944, and a second bachelor's degree from Shepherd in education. She earned a master's degree from the University of Wisconsin at Madison and a Ph.D. from Temple University. Ruth began her teaching career at Sparrows Point High School before returning to Shepherd where she taught for 11 years. She joined the faculty of other colleges and universities over the years, including Rowan University, Glassboro State, and Towson State. Her areas of expertise at Towson were kinesiology and biokinetics. Ruth pioneered the use of cinematographic analysis of human motion and taught theory classes in preparation programs for physical education majors and in occupational therapy and pre-physical therapy programs. Ruth served as chair of Towson's department of kinesiology. She retired from teaching in 1983, but became an active volunteer at Oregon Ridge Nature Center in Baltimore County as a trail guide and served as a member of its board. She participated in the Maryland Senior Olympics for more than 20 years and had qualified to participate in the National Senior Olympics. Her hobbies included traveling, birdwatching, photography, and attending theater. At Shepherd, she was involved with Kappa Delta Pi and Phi Kappa Phi and received the Outstanding Alumna of the Year award in 1968.

ROSEMARY WATTERS DAY '49, formerly of Richmond, Virginia, died August 31, 2018. Rosemary was born in Charles Town and graduated from Shepherd with a degree in education. Rosemary retired as a social researcher for the University of Michigan and was a census enumerator for the U.S. Census Bureau. She was a member of the Bon Air Presbyterian Church in Virginia for more than 50 years. She was a charter member of the Scottish Society of Richmond and a devoted member of the Bon Air Garden

Club and Bon Air F.C.E. Rosemary enjoyed Scottish country dancing, watching Red Sox baseball, and partnering with her sister in fierce contract bridge.

CLARA MAE ROBERTS EVANS '51, of Martinsburg, died September 25, 2018. While at Shepherd, she was a member of Kappa Delta Pi and Alpha Sigma Tau. She was inducted in 2001 into the Shepherd Emeritus Club for alumni who graduated 50 or more years ago. Clara was a teacher for 35 years, spending 33 years at Musselman High School. She was a member of Otterbein United Methodist Church and the Gruver Sunday School class.

MIRIAM WIEST BOYD '56, of Gerrardstown, died June 18, 2018. After graduating from Shepherd with high honors and a bachelor's degree in elementary education, Miriam taught at Gerrardstown Elementary School in Berkeley County. While at Shepherd, she was an active member of the Alpha Sigma Tau sorority. She and her husband, Jim, owned and operated Wiest and Boyd Grocery Store until 1979. From 1999 to 2012, she lived in Ocala, Florida, where she attended Shepherd alumni events. Miriam was a lifelong member of the Gerrardstown United Methodist Church where she was a choir director, soloist, pianist, Bible school teacher, and member of the United Methodist Women and Faith-

ful Friends Sunday School class. She is survived by four children, including alumna CYNTHIA BOYD WOODS '75, and eight grandchildren, including alumnus MATTHEW LOUDAN '10, as well as four great-grandchildren.

FRANKLIN PIFER RACEY '61, of Winchester, Virginia, died November 4, 2018. He was graduate of James Wood High School and graduated from Shepherd with a Bachelor of Science degree in chemistry. He served in the military with the 82nd Airborne Division of the U.S. Army. Franklin attained the rank of Master Mason at the Portage Lodge number 123 in Elmore, Ohio. He retired from Lockheed-Martin Corporation after 35 years, having been instrumental in helping to establish Martin Marietta in the foreign marketplace including Canada, Mexico, Central and South America, Europe, and the Middle East. Franklin was president of the 1953 James Wood High Class Reunion Committee and enjoyed traveling with his life partner and navigator, Linda, as well as gardening at home and feeding the fish in his pond.

CORRECTION: In the fall issue of the *Shepherd University Magazine*, the obituary of SEYMOUR RICHARD THOMAS '62 erroneously identified him in one sentence as Robert. We apologize for the error. ■

Shepherd University Alumni Association presents

Career/Life Video Series

The Shepherd University Alumni Association online career/life video series is a new initiative that showcases Shepherd University alumni as they deliver a 45 minute to 1 hour presentation on a wide variety of topics aimed at assisting Shepherd students, alumni, and friends in enhancing professional and personal success.

These online presentations are free for the Shepherd community to view and are archived for viewers at www.shepherd.edu/suaa/career-life-video-series and on the SUAA YouTube page.

If you would like to volunteer to present a topic, please contact Kim Hutto at 304-876-5157 or khutto@shepherd.edu for more information.

Athletic Hall of Fame inducts four into its 33rd class



Chip Ransom

ABOVE: Inducted into the Athletic Hall of Fame in October 2018 were (l. to r.) Dirk Webb '09, Todd Fischer '98, Antar Parkman '01, and Al Lueck '67.

The Shepherd University Athletic Hall of Fame inducted four new members at the annual induction banquet on October 26, 2018 at the Storer Ballroom in Shepherd's Student Center.

Football player **TODD FISCHER '98**, joined **AL LUECK '67** (contributor), **ANTAR PARKMAN '01** (men's basketball), and **DIRK WEBB '09** (baseball) as the 33rd class to be inducted. The four inductees bring the total number of members in the Shepherd University Athletic Hall of Fame to 150.

Additionally, **JIM AUXER '69** was selected as the 2018 Medallion Award winner. Auxer played football for the Rams from 1965-1968 and served as the team captain in his senior season. He has been an ardent and dedicated supporter of Shepherd athletics. ■ *Chip Ransom*



RIGHT: Jim Auxer '69 was honored as the 2018 Medallion Award winner during the October 2018 HOF banquet.

Chip Ransom

Football records a 7-3 mark under first-year coach Ernie McCook

The football team recorded a 7-3 overall mark on the season under first-year head coach Ernie McCook. The seven wins tie Hall of Famer WALTER BARR '62 for the second most victories for a first-year coach in program history.

Fifteen members of the football team were named to the 2018 All-MEC Football Team.

Freshman quarterback Tyson Bagent, Martinsburg; senior wide receiver Ryan Feiss, Forest Hill, Maryland; junior tight end DJ Cornish, Felton, Delaware; graduate student center Jaime Colon, Fredericksburg, Virginia; sophomore linebacker Chrys Lane, Baltimore, Maryland; and senior cornerback DeJuan Neal, Shady Side, Maryland, were first team selections.

Bagent completed 253-of-387 passes for 3,029 yards and

29 touchdowns. The three-time MEC Offensive Player of the Week set Shepherd single-game marks for completions, attempts, and passing yards when he completed 36-of-56 passes for 518 yards against Notre Dame in the season opener. He set a Shepherd and MEC record when he tossed seven touchdown passes against West Virginia Wesleyan. Bagent ranked in the top 11 in eight NCAA II statistical categories. Bagent is the first Shepherd freshman to garner All-MEC first team honors since CJ Davis in 2013. He

also earned third team Don Hansen Football Gazette All-Region honors.

Feiss led the Rams with 90 receptions for 952 yards and nine touchdowns. He capped a brilliant career with 240 career receptions for 3,077 yards and 20 touchdown grabs. He recorded 14 games of 100 receiving yards or more over his career. He also earned second team Don Hansen Football Gazette All-Region honors.

Cornish had 27 catches for 326 yards and three touchdowns on the season. He also earned second team D2CCA and Don Hansen Football Gazette All-Region honors.

Colon, a first team selection for the second consecutive season, anchored an offensive line that helped Shepherd average 10th nationally in passing offense (304.0). He also earned second team D2CCA and Don Hansen Football Gazette All-Region honors.

Lane led the Shepherd defense in total tackles (78) and solo stops (47). He added 10.5 tackles-for-loss (-62 yards) and 3.0 sacks (-20 yards). He added a pair of forced fumbles.

Neal, a repeat first-teamer, recorded 29 tackles with 23 solo stops. He added two pass breakups, 1.5 tackles-for-loss, and an

interception. He also earned third team Don Hansen Football Gazette All-Region honors.

Junior guard Keandre Batson, Upper Marlboro, Maryland; senior tackle Levi Lloyd, Fallston, Maryland; sophomore defensive lineman Ricky Robinson, Matthias; and sophomore defensive back Ponce Deleon, Greenbelt, Maryland, were named to the second team.

Batson and Lloyd were main cogs in an offensive line that helped the Rams rank fourth in time of possession (33:55).

Robinson ranked third on the team in tackles (40) and solo tackles (24). He added 10.5 tackles-for-loss (-34 yards), 2.5 sacks (-18 yards), and an interception.

Deleon was second on the team in totals tackles (58) and solo stops (36). His five interceptions led the team. He added 6.0 tackles-for-loss (-18 yards) and 1.5 sacks (-11 yards). He also posted two pass breakups, a forced fumble, and a fumble recovery. He earned third team Don Hansen Football Gazette All-Region honors.

Senior wide receiver Wanya Allen, Sterling, Virginia; sophomore tight end Alex Wetzel, Keedysville, Maryland; sophomore offensive lineman Eric Ostrow, Owings Mills, Maryland; junior defensive lineman Scott Dixon, Westover; and senior defensive end Tatah Ndeh, Silver Spring, Maryland, gained honorable mention honors.

Allen was second on the team with 51 receptions for 717 yards and seven touchdowns. His 14.06 yards average per catch was also second on the team. He completed his career with 115 catches for 1,682 yards and 21 touchdowns.

Ostrow, a first-year starter on the offensive line, helped key a Shepherd offense that led the MEC in passing offense (304.0).

Wetzel had 14 catches for 213 yards on the year. His 15.21 yards per catch average was second on the team.

Dixon recorded 20 tackles with eight solo stops. He added 5.5 tackles-for-loss (-19 yards) and 2.5 sacks (-13 yards), and a forced fumble.

Ndeh recorded 33 tackles with 18 solo stops. His 10.5 tackles-for-loss (-70 yards) tied for the team lead, while his 7.5 sacks (-64 yards) topped the team. He added team bests of three forced fumbles and two fumble recoveries. ■ *Chip Ransom*



Jack Ransom

Tight end DJ Cornish



Chip Ransom

Center Jaime Colon

Sports round-up

Men's Soccer

The men's soccer team posted a 1-17-0 overall mark with a 0-14-0 record in conference play. The Rams gained a 1-0 win over Pitt-Johnstown on a penalty kick by freshman midfielder Shamar Robinson, Mount Vernon, New York.

Freshman goalkeeper Jose Machado Orellana, Falls Church, Virginia, gained honorable mention All-MEC honors as he appeared and started in 13 matches for the Rams. He recorded 109 saves with a .694 save percentage. He added a 3.99 goals against average. Machado Orellana led NCAA II in saves per game with an 8.38 mark and ranked fourth in total saves (109).

Freshman forward Abdelrahman Elmasry, Baltimore, Maryland, also earned honorable mention honors. He led the team in shots on goal (10) and ranked third in total shots (12).

Women's Soccer

The women's soccer team recorded a 5-8-5 overall mark with a 4-4-5 record in conference play.

Sophomore defender Katherine Eddy, Charleston, was a second team All-MEC selection. Eddy anchored a Shepherd defense that recorded six shutouts and allowed just one goal on three other occasions. Eddy had four goals and two assists for 10 points on the year for the Rams. She tallied a pair of game-winning goals.

Volleyball

The volleyball team posted a 23-11 overall mark with an 11-5 record in conference play. Shepherd made its first NCAA II regional appearance in program history. The Rams set a new record with a 10-match winning streak during the season.

Five Rams gained MEC honors. Junior outside hitter Peyton Lindblad, Spotsylvania, Virginia, gained first team All-MEC honors, junior outside hitter Cambria Hill, Columbia, Maryland, and junior libero Imani Major, Gainesville, Virginia, were second team choices, while sophomore middle hitter Nicole Murray, Hagerstown, Maryland, was an honorable mention selection.

Additionally, freshman middle hitter Georgia Ohmke, Falls Church, Virginia, was named to the MEC All-Freshman Team.

Lindblad, a two-time MEC Player of the Week honoree this season, led the Rams in kills (438) and kills per set (3.68). Her 47 aces were second on the team, while her 71 blocks are third on the team. She ranked third in the MEC in points (4.39), and aces per set (0.39), and fourth in kills (3.68). Lindblad also garnered second team D2CCA All-Atlantic Region and first team AVCA All-Atlantic Region accolades.

Hill ranked second on the team in kills (354), kills per set (3.11), digs (326), and digs per set (2.86). Her 41 aces tied for third on the team. She ranked seventh in the MEC in aces per set (0.36) and eighth in kills per set, and eighth in points (3.68). Hill gained MEC Player of the Week honors in October.

Major led the Rams in digs (676) and digs per set (5.17). Her

35 aces are third on the team, while her 0.34 aces per set place her fourth. She ranks fifth in the MEC in digs and digs per set, and her 0.34 aces per set rank her ninth in the league.

Murray is second on the team in total blocks (83) while leading the team in block solos (20). Her .356 attack percentage tops the team and ranks second in the MEC.

Ohmke led the Rams in total blocks (84) and blocks per set (1.12). Her 1.12 blocks per set rank her fifth in the MEC.

Men's Golf

The men's golf team fired a three-round total of 928 to place fifth in a 12-team field at the MEC Championships.

Senior Drew Call, Charleston, fired a 228 to finish eighth to pace the Rams.

Shepherd also finished second in a 10-team field at the Virginia State Fall Classic. Junior Owen Elliott, Hedgesville, took medalist honors with a two-round total of 146. ■ *Chip Ransom*

Lindblad garners Google Cloud Academic All-American Honors

Junior outside hitter Peyton Lindblad, Spotsylvania, Virginia, of the volleyball team has been named to the 2018 Google Cloud Academic All-America® Volleyball Division II Team, as selected by College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA). Lindblad gained third team honors.

Lindblad, who recently gained first team AVCA and second team D2CCA All-Region honors, boasts a 4.00 grade point average as a nursing major. She led the Rams in kills (438) and kills per set (3.68) and added 127 digs, 71 blocks (three solos), 47 aces, and 13 assists.

Lindblad helped lead Shepherd to a 23-11 overall mark with an 11-5 record in conference play. The Rams made their first NCAA II postseason appearance as the seventh seed in the Atlantic Region. ■ *Chip Ransom*



Peyton Lindblad

Chip Ransom

The Foundation

Named funds create lasting legacies

The Shepherd University Foundation announces the creation of 16 new named funds. These privately funded awards provide vital support for student scholarships, academic programs, and faculty excellence. To learn more about creating a named fund through the Foundation, please contact Monica Lingenfelter at 304-876-5397 or mlingenf@shepherd.edu, or visit shepherduniversityfoundation.org.

Laura Reisz Dreitzler Scholarship



Laura Reisz Dreitzler

Laura Reisz Dreitzler (1876-1965) loved learning and did so throughout her life, despite having little opportunity to pursue a formal education. Largely self-educated, she passed the Ohio State Teachers Examinations with high marks and taught for several years in a one-room schoolhouse. She was especially drawn

to mathematics and physiology. She also enjoyed geography and passed her knowledge of it on to her granddaughter and her friends by telling them adventure stories starring children from

her own childhood. Now Dreitzler's granddaughter has created a unique scholarship opportunity for a female West Virginia resident majoring in the field of science, technology, engineering, or mathematics (STEM). The Laura Reisz Dreitzler Scholarship is a full tuition award that will be funded for four years. The award was made to CATON REYNOLDS '22, a freshman biology major from Charles Town. Caton is the first in her family to attend college, an award preference expressed by the donor, who wishes to remain anonymous.

Although she lived in a male-dominated world, Dreitzler was a feminist and suffragist who modeled industry, frugality, generosity, and fierce dedication for her children and grandchildren. "I feel she would be quite pleased to know that her name is now associated with Shepherd University in support of President Mary J.C. Hendrix's initiatives to encourage women in the pursuit of careers in the STEM fields," said Dreitzler's granddaughter, who cited the university's Seeding Your Future initiative as the inspiration behind her scholarship award. ■

'83 and '84 Championship Baseball Teams Scholarship

The 1983 and 1984 Shepherd University championship baseball teams were made up of young men and coaches who bonded as friends and teammates for one common goal: to win Shepherd's first baseball championship. Together they achieved that goal and have continued to stay in touch and support each other as friends and teammates throughout the years. In 2018, the group chose to carry on their legacy by creating an annually funded scholarship designated in support of a student athlete on Shepherd's men's baseball team. "Our new common goal as a team is to help student athletes who play baseball for Shepherd," said teammate CRAIG KERSHNER '88, who led fundraising efforts for the scholarship award. "It is our hope that these deserving students may create the same lasting bonds of friendship with their teammates as we did." ■



1983 Shepherd University Baseball Team

Gerald '77 and Bonnie Dodson Scholarship

As a public educator, GERALD DODSON '77 was a hands-on instructor who strived to make sure his students understood what he was teaching them. If they struggled, Gerald tried incorporating modalities and teaching methods to help them, something he credits his education professors at Shepherd with teaching him. A double major in physical education and mathematics, Gerald spent 26 years as a math teacher and six years as an administrator in Clarke County and Frederick County public schools in Virginia, and also coached several sports. He and his wife, Bonnie, reside in Berryville, where they have owned an antiques business for nearly 40



Sam Levitan

Gerald '77 and Bonnie Broy Dodson joined the Joseph P. McMurran Society in 2018.

years. Bonnie is the retired director of the senior center for Shenandoah Agency for the Aging in Clarke County. In 2018, the couple chose to establish the Gerald and Bonnie Dodson Scholarship in support of education majors. "I wanted to give back to an institution that had meant so much to me and had such an influence on what I became," said Gerald. "My instructors were wonderful because they laid the groundwork for what it was really going to be like in the classroom. I had the most respect for that when I first started teaching." ■

Boyle Family Lacrosse Scholarship

The Boyle Family Lacrosse Scholarship is designated in support of student athletes on the Shepherd lacrosse team. The annually funded award was established by John and Pam Boyle in honor of their mothers, Bertha Boyle and Beverley Virginia Newbern. “They met every challenge of life during difficult days in our nation’s history, overcoming the Great Depression and World War II,” said Pam, whose mother, Beverley, became one of the first female pilots in the nation. “They raised families full of successful, thriving children and grandchildren who have continued to carry on their legacy,” said Pam, who previously served as an officer in the United States Army. She now works in information technology.



Bertha Boyle



Beverley Sawin Newbern

John and Pam have established two other annually funded scholarship awards through the Shepherd University Foundation: the Boyle Family Football Scholarship in support of Shepherd’s football team, and the newly created World War I Remembrance Scholarship (see below). The couple was introduced to Shepherd through John’s daughter, COLLEEN BOYLE ’12, a former member of the Shepherd Marching Band. John and Pam continue to follow the football program, with John administering the Shepherd Ram Band and Shepherd Ram Football Fans Facebook pages. The couple has grown to love and appreciate the university’s community-based culture. “There is a seamless blend of school and community that you don’t find in other college settings,” said John. ■

World War I Remembrance Scholarship

John H. Fleming was a young farmer from Harpers Ferry who volunteered to serve his country during World War I. He was killed in action in France on October 13, 1918, less than one month before the November 11 armistice. On the 100th anniversary of his death and the end of World War I, John and Pam Boyle wished to honor this young patriot by creating the World War I Remembrance Scholarship in support of West Virginia residents studying a major included in Shepherd University’s College of Business. The couple discovered Fleming’s grave in a Virginia cemetery that lies between Shepherdstown and their home in Ashburn, Virginia. Bearing distinctive markings, the young soldier’s tombstone caught their eye and inspired them to research more about his life and death. “He is someone whose sacrifice we wished to honor,” said Pam. ■

Dale and Rozelle Leatherman Memorial Scholarship

Dale A. and Rozelle L. Leatherman were the founders of Falling Waters Campsite in Berkeley County. Established in 1962, the business is still operated by the Leatherman family. Dale and Rozelle were wed during World War II and remained married for 67 years until Rozelle’s death in 2009. Dale died in 2013. The couple continued working for as long as they were physically able—Rozelle until she was 80 years old and Dale until he was 90.

“They built the business from nothing and worked very hard to establish opportunities for their family for many years to come,” said their son, LYNN E. LEATHERMAN ’92. “Most importantly, they did so with the objective of helping their customers and other members of the community. They made a point of treating everyone fairly, with compassion and respect.”

Lynn has established the Dale and Rozelle Leatherman Memorial Scholarship in memory of his parents. Designated in support of Shepherd’s College of Business, the scholarship is supported by Lynn’s sister, Dale Ann Leatherman, and children LYNDSEY W. MATSCHAT ’06 and Lynn E. “Chip” Leatherman II. ■



Rozelle and Dale Leatherman

The Foundation

Susan L. Mills Music Scholarship in Honor of Camille and James Mills

When Susan Mills began taking piano lessons in the second grade, her father would play the role of chauffeur, waiting in the car while she honed her craft. It was a weekly ritual that would continue until Susan was old enough to drive herself, but her father didn't mind. Both he and Susan's mother were music lovers as well. Her father played trombone in a band, while her mother had only to hear a tune once before picking it out on the piano herself.

"Both of them had perfect pitch, I think," said Susan, laughing.

In 2014, Susan moved from Washington, D.C., to Shepherdstown following her retirement from a 46-year career as an award-winning producer with CBS News and The MacNeil/Lehrer News Hour (PBS). "I was drawn to a college town because I knew there would be things to do," she said. "And there are so many opportunities to hear good, live music at Shepherd; almost weekly student recitals, jazz combos, guest artists and the lovely Salon Series sponsored by Jefferson Security Bank."

While Susan continued to play piano through early adulthood, even serving as accompanist for her high school's senior choir, her interest in music had always included singing as well. Upon moving to Shepherdstown, she became intrigued by the Masterworks Chorale, the Eastern Panhandle's premiere vocal ensemble comprised of Shepherd vocal students and members from the surrounding community. She auditioned and joined the ensemble in 2015.

"As a member of the choir, I'm very impressed with the Shepherd students and how phenomenally hard they work. In addition to their studies, they also work full-time jobs to make ends meet," said Susan, adding, "I never had to do that."

Susan's humble observations have led her to establish the Susan L. Mills Music Scholarship in Honor of Camille and James Mills, acknowledging both her parents' support of her own musical interests, as well as her admiration for Shepherd music students and faculty. Designated in support of music majors, the deferred gift will be endowed through a bequest. As a result, Susan joins the Joseph P. McMullan Society, a special group of donors who have chosen to share their lifelong financial achievements with Shepherd University through estate and other planned gifts. ■



Susan L. Mills

Roger P. Parker Memorial Scholarship

Roger Parker coached several sports during his 31-year career at Shepherd, including football, cross country, and track and field. But it is his establishment of the men's and women's tennis programs for which he is most well-known.

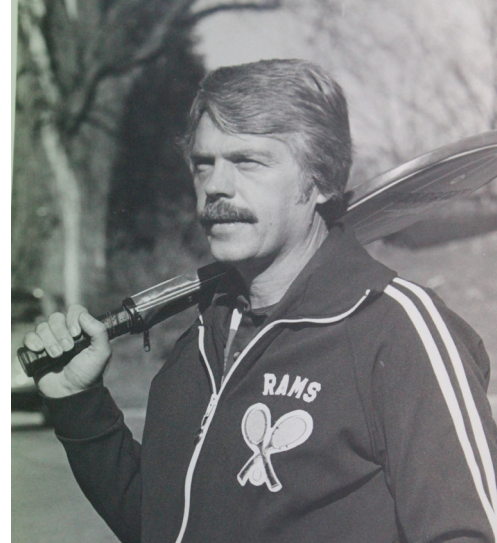
Widely considered to be the Father of Shepherd Tennis,

Roger's success as a coach is legendary. His teams won five WVIAC Team Championships and four NAIA District Championships, while his players earned three WVIAC Player of the Year awards, two Academic All-America recognitions, and more than 50 WVIAC individual championships. As a result of his coaching techniques, strategies, and team performances, Roger was named Coach of the Year five times by the WVIAC, and was inducted into Shepherd University's Hall of Fame in 2002.

In lieu of flowers upon his death in 2012, Roger's family requested donations be made to a memorial fund in his name through the Shepherd University Foundation. The family has continued to donate to the fund, resulting in the endowment of the Roger P. Parker Memorial Scholarship in support of student athletes in the men's and women's tennis programs at Shepherd.

"We wanted to help students through the creation of a scholarship, and we wanted to designate it in support of the tennis program in order to connect it to my father and his legacy at Shepherd," said Roger's son, CHRIS PARKER '82. Chris recalls growing up on Shepherd's campus with his siblings, MARY JO PARKER WARD '85 and TIM PARKER '95, during their father's coaching tenure. Later, all three Parker children and their mother (JOANN PARKER '92) would attend the university, with Chris noting ironically that his father was the only member of their family who was not a Shepherd graduate.

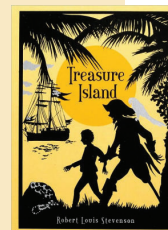
"Dad was a heck of a competitor in tennis," said Chris, noting that Roger received his pro certification from Van Der Meer Tennis Academy in Hilton Head, South Carolina, and continued to compete at a high level throughout his life. "It almost seemed meant to be for him to create the tennis program at Shepherd." ■



Roger Parker

18th Annual Scarborough Society Gala invites guests on a treasure hunt

On Friday, August 9, the Shepherd University Scarborough Society's 18th annual gala will embrace the high seas adventure depicted in Robert Louis Stevenson's classic novel *Treasure Island*. The event will once again be held at the Bavarian Inn, featuring its renovated dining interior and scenic landscape. For more information about the gala, visit shepherduniversityfoundation.org. To receive an invitation, contact the Foundation office at 304-876-5397.



Judy Rand and Friends Scholarship for Aspiring String Musicians

In 2006, Judy Rand moved from Annapolis to Shepherdstown seeking a quieter life. An adult amateur string musician, she was also drawn to the town's culture. "This is a really fantastic town for the arts," said Judy, who plays the violin and viola and enjoys participating in music camps up and down the East Coast throughout the year. Seeking a way to play chamber music with like-minded local musicians as well, she soon joined the Shepherd Community Orchestra, which provides opportunities for more than 70 local string and wind students to play in a community and youth orchestra of outstanding caliber. The group is comprised of a Junior String Ensemble for beginner and inexperienced students, as well as an Advanced Orchestra for advanced students and adult community members. Youth members include elementary, middle, and high school string students from Jefferson and Berkeley counties in West Virginia, and Washington County, Maryland.

As a result of her nearly decade-long involvement with the Community Orchestra, Judy has now chosen to establish the Judy Rand and Friends Scholarship for Aspiring String Musicians. The annually funded award provides stipend money to defray the cost of private lessons for aspiring youth musicians to study with adjunct faculty leaders within the community music division of Shepherd's Department of Music.

"The award funds will go to Shepherd faculty, which will also benefit students participating in the orchestras because they'll be able to take private lessons from highly qualified people," said Judy, who has gotten to know many of the orchestra's youth participants. "I'm aware of quite a few students who aren't able to afford private lessons, and I just thought maybe there was a way to use the same dollar for two purposes."

Judy and her partner, Rebecca Grace Jones, plan to host fundraisers for the scholarship in their Shepherdstown home. The first was held on October 7, 2018, and

featured student performers from Berkeley and Jefferson counties, along with their instructors. ■

Cellist Leo Clark (l.) and his teacher, Camilo Perez-Mejia, perform at a fundraiser held at the home of Judy Rand and Rebecca Grace Jones in support of the Judy Rand and Friends Scholarship Fund.



Kristin Alexander

Jim Watson

Watson Family Endowment for the Scarborough Library

As a social studies major at Shepherd from 1964 through 1967, James Watson took every history course offered by Professor Ruth Scarborough, who also served as his advisor until her retirement in 1966. The following year, Jim left Shepherd to enlist in the Air Force, in which he served for the next four years. In 1972, he returned to college, earning his undergraduate degree in social studies from West Virginia University where he also obtained his master's and Ph.D. in history. It was during his Ph.D. candidacy that he held a teaching fellowship under the chair of the history department whose idea of tormenting his new teaching assistants was to have them teach a course outside their field of study. And that's how Jim, whose graduate work focused on British and American constitutional history and sub-Saharan Africa, wound up teaching Greek, Roman, and Egyptian history for one year.

"Thankfully, I had saved all of the notes I'd taken under Dr. Scarborough because they got me through that year," he laughed.

Jim's studies led him to spend a lot of time in libraries, both in the U.S. and in Great Britain, where he performed his graduate research. "Libraries hold a special place in my heart," said the Martinsburg native, adding that he still has his very first library card from the Martinsburg Public Library.

It was this love of libraries that led Jim to establish the Watson Family Endowment for the Scarborough Library. The gift will provide deferred perpetual funding in support of Shepherd's library system.

"Libraries are the center of a college, yet they always seem to be one of the first programs for which funding is cut," said Jim, who enjoyed a 37-year career in university fundraising and development before his retirement in 2017. Among the higher education institutions he served is Shepherd University, where he held the role of vice president for institutional advancement for 10 years. He is a charter member of the Joseph P. McMurran Society, which recognizes alumni and friends who have chosen to support Shepherd through estate and other planned gifts.

The Watson Family Endowment holds special meaning for Jim on several levels. "The gift itself is named for my family. It's meant to honor them," he said, noting that his mother grew up during the Great Depression and had only an 8th grade education, but was the smartest person he ever knew. "She read everything and she made sure that my brother and I knew the value of an education that began with reading, spelling, and writing. She had us in libraries by the time we were five years old."

And Jim feels it's poignant that his gift will support a library that happens to be named after his former advisor and mentor. "It all fits," he said. ■

The Foundation

Dr. Lee E. '60 and Wanda T. '61 Keebler Scholarship

DR. LEE '60 and WANDA '61 KEEBLER touched the lives of numerous students in Berkeley and Jefferson counties during their respective careers in education, which spanned more than 60 years collectively. Lee was a professor of English at Shepherd for 31 years, 17 of which he spent serving as chair of the Department of Language and Literature. Meanwhile, Wanda spent the majority of her career as an educator in the Jefferson County public school system, teaching at Shepherdstown Junior High for 28 years until her retirement in the 1990s.



Dr. Lee '60 and Wanda '61 Keebler

The couple met, fittingly, in their freshman English class at

Shepherd, from which Lee graduated with a B.A. in English and Wanda with a B.A. in secondary education. They were married for 55 years until Lee's death in September 2017. To honor her husband's memory, Wanda has established the Dr. Lee E. and Wanda T. Keebler Scholarship in support of English or English secondary education majors. Wanda is also a member of the Joseph P. McMurran Society, a special group of donors whose foresight

and generosity have led them to include Shepherd University in their estate plans. ■

Lynne and Don Cosner Scholarship

Don and Lynne Cosner did not attend Shepherd, but that hasn't stopped them from thinking of it as "their school." The couple has faithfully attended plays at the Contemporary American Theater Festival for 20 years, along with concerts and other campus events, and they enjoy following Shepherd sports.

"We feel Shepherd is our school," said Don. "It's a part of us."

Don and Lynne relocated from the Baltimore area to the Eastern Panhandle more than two decades ago. They now reside on a working farm in northern Berkeley County with a menagerie of animals, including four horses, four dogs, 12 cats, two cows, five chickens, and a turtle. An avid horsewoman, Lynne rides nearly every day.

"Riding is my first love—riding and animals. But I like math a lot, and I enjoyed teaching," said Lynne, a retired middle school math teacher with a 30-year career. As a teacher at Boonsboro Middle School during the latter part of her career, she watched many former students go on to attend Shepherd.

As a tribute to Lynne's career and their appreciation for Shepherd, the couple has chosen to establish the Lynne and Don Cosner Scholarship in support of math education majors.

"We both felt that we should give something back to the community and, as expensive as it is today to get a college education, scholarships have become very important," said Don. "Lynne has taught a lot of kids math over the years, and we think it would be beneficial to give what we have to students who are interested in pursuing careers in mathematics."

A retired business owner in the construction and residential building industry, Don notes that math makes up the foundation for many of the couple's lifelong interests, including engineering, construction, and veterinary medicine. "Shepherd is a good place to go to school and it has a good math department," he said, adding, "And we've had a lot of fun at Shepherd over the years!" ■

Dennis L. Barron '73 Scholarship

The Dennis L. Barron Scholarship is designated for deserving students who are residents of Jefferson County. A deferred endowment of a unique nature, it was established by Shepherd alumnus DENNIS L. (DENNY) BARRON '73 when he transferred ownership of a life insurance policy to the Shepherd University Foundation. Denny will make fully tax-deductible payments to the Foundation to cover the cost of the premiums. The gift is the first of its kind for the Shepherd University Foundation.

"I just want to help deserving students offset the costs associated with higher education, as well as the cost of living after college," said Denny, who has also designated a portion of his estate to Shepherd to increase the scholarship fund.

A lifelong resident of Jefferson County, Denny retired in December 2017 as the executive vice president and chief operations officer of Jefferson Security Bank, where he had worked for 44 years. He now sits on the bank's board of directors. A lifelong participant in the local 4-H program, Denny has served as treasurer of the Jefferson County 4-H Foundation in addition to sitting on the board of directors for Camp Frame, the Hedgesville-based 4-H camp. He has also acted as entertainment chair for the Jefferson County Fair since 1975 and served for 28 years as treasurer for the Shepherdstown Fire Department. In 2016, the Shepherdstown Rotary recognized Denny with its highest honor, the Paul Harris Award, in recognition of his outstanding civic work. ■



Dennis L. Barron '73

Dr. Joseph J. Renn III '60 and Robin L. Renn Endowed Scholarship

DR. JOSEPH J. RENN III '60 enjoyed a successful career as a pulmonary and critical care physician and clinical professor of medicine at the West Virginia University Medical School, and he believes his Shepherd education lies at the root of it. It was his undergraduate work at Shepherd that gave him a solid basis for fulfilling his dream to attend medical school—a dream that began at the age of five, when Joe suffered a serious head wound after attempting to restructure his swing set into scaffolding.

"It was 1943 and doctors were trying to conserve medicine due to the war effort," Joe said. "The doctor told me, 'If you let me sew you up without anesthesia, you'll be a good soldier.' At that time, it was important to be a good soldier."

During his time at Shepherd, Joe was inspired by Dr. Ray Harris, former chair of the science

department, to give back to young people through scholarship awards. In 1999, Joe established the Elsie Brown Renn and Joseph J. Renn, Jr. Endowed Memorial Scholarship in support of biology majors as a tribute to his mother (ELSIE BROWN RENN '23) and two sisters (EMMA RENN BORDEN '63 and ROBERTA RENN ABSHIRE '62), who also graduated from Shepherd. Now he and his wife, Robin, have created the Dr. Joseph J. Renn III '60 and Robin L. Renn Endowed Scholarship in support of students pursuing degrees in the biological and medical sciences. The gift was made through a bequest, leading the Renns to join the Joseph P. McMurrin Society, a special group of donors that have chosen to share their lifelong financial achievements with Shepherd through estate and other planned gifts.

"I think Shepherd gave me my true direction in life and I wanted to give something back," said Joe of his gifts.

Though Robin did not attend Shepherd, she shares her husband's commitment to the university. "When Joe introduced me to Shepherd's campus, I fell in love," she said, explaining that Shepherd is the type of college she would have preferred to attend if finances not been an issue.

Joe and Robin met while working at Monongalia General Hospital in Morgantown, where Robin worked as an X-ray technician for 30 years. The couple is now enjoying retirement in coastal South Carolina.

"Throughout my career, I invested money in the hopes that I would be able to help others. Since marrying Joe, we've been able to do that together," she said, adding, "I'm not one to dwell on the past, but rather to focus on what the future holds and how we can help Shepherd students realize their potential and their dreams." ■



Robin L. Renn and Dr. Joseph J. Renn III '60

Richard "Rick" Wachtel '68 Memorial Scholarship

RICHARD "RICK" WACHTEL '68 graduated from Shepherd with a degree in business and went on to become actively involved in the community as both a small business owner and public official. In 1976, he co-founded TalkRadio WRNR-AM 740, for which he served as president and general manager for the next 40 years. In December 2015, Rick sold the station in order to focus on new endeavors, including volunteering his time and talent to give back to Shepherd as an athletics advocate. In this new role, he served as a liaison between Shepherd and the local community, promoting opportunities for businesses and industry to support the university. A former Shepherd football player, Rick could be found in the Smallwood and Small Insurance Pavilion during every home game, cheering on the Rams while working to boost support for the university. He hoped to serve as a role model to other alumni and encourage them to follow his lead in giving back to their alma mater.

Following Rick's death in July 2017, his widow, Sandra Wachtel, established a named scholarship in his honor through the Shepherd University Foundation. The annually funded award is designated in support of incoming freshmen from Martinsburg High School who demonstrate a commitment to community service and leadership. The first award of the Richard "Rick" Wachtel Memorial Scholarship was made for 2018-2019 to Amber Duvall, an accounting major from Martinsburg. ■



Cecelia Mason

Richard "Rick" Wachtel '68

The Foundation

Margaret M. Drennen Women's Golf Scholarship

Maggie Drennen was respected and admired throughout the Eastern Panhandle as a strong woman and fierce advocate for women, who supported many worthy organizations. An avid golfer, she and her late husband, Judge William Drennen, developed The Club at Cress Creek with the assistance of their daughter and son-in-law, Dale and Hank Walter. Now the Walters have created the Margaret M. Drennen Women's Golf Endowment in Maggie's memory. The fund is the first endowment for women's golf at Shepherd, which was added to the university's athletic roster for the 2018-2019 season. The permanently invested fund will provide scholarships for female student athletes and financial support to strengthen the women's golf program. ■

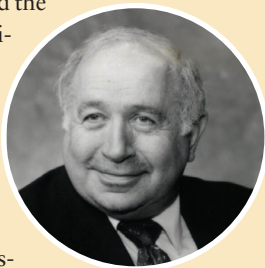


Cecelia Mason

ABOVE: Pictured (l. to r.) are Monica Lingenfelter, executive vice president of the Shepherd University Foundation; Hank Walter; Dale Walter; Chuck Ingram, Shepherd's golf coach; and Chauncey Winbush '95 and '00, vice president for athletics.

Donate to honor Prof. Paul Saab with a memorial lab in his name

Shepherd University is honoring the legacy of the late Paul Saab, a dedicated and beloved biology professor at Shepherd for 37 years until death in 2001. It was said that Paul's charismatic personality and delightful demeanor graced the halls of the Robert C. Byrd Science Center and Snyder Hall. He touched the lives of many students during his tenure and would often volunteer his time to work with student organizations, including serving as director of Elderhostel, coordinator of culinary arts, and advisor to both Sigma Sigma Sigma sorority and Theta Xi fraternity.



Paul had a lasting impact on Shepherd, and his legacy lives on today. In his memory, funds are being raised to equip a much-needed teaching lab in the Robert C. Byrd Science and Technology Center. The lab is currently used to teach microbiology, a required course for nursing majors and an elective for biology, biochemistry, and environmental studies majors, making it the perfect space to honor Paul's legacy.

To honor his memory with a donation to the Paul Saab Memorial Lab, please contact Sherri Janelle, executive director of development at the Shepherd University Foundation, at 304-876-5043 or sjanelle@shepherd.edu. ■

Friends of Popodicon

Popodicon, the historic home that serves as President Mary J.C. Hendrix's business residence, has a newly renovated catering kitchen thanks to generous donors and efforts by the Friends of Popodicon (FOP), a group dedicated to restoring the house.

FOP members and Shepherd alumni PATTIE '73 and PAUL '74 WILMOTH led the effort to update the kitchen and adjoining laundry and powder rooms. Several events have been held in the past year to raise money for the restoration effort. In May 2018, more than 50 alumnae, community members, faculty, and staff helped raise funds at the Little Black Dress Party: Popping for Popodicon, which served as the 11th marquee event for Women for Shepherd. And in October 2018, a beer and wine tasting event at the Bavarian Inn raised more funds.

With the house and grounds of Popodicon restored to their original glory, it stands ready as the perfect venue to host a variety of corporate or private events. If you are interested in hosting an event at Popodicon, please contact Sonya Sholley, Office of the President, at 304-876-5107 or ssholley@shepherd.edu. ■



Cecelia Mason

ABOVE: Popodicon's newly renovated kitchen is ready to be used for private and corporate catered events scheduled at the historic building on Shepherd's campus.

Foundation welcomes new directors

The Shepherd University Foundation is pleased to welcome three new members to its Board of Directors. BENJAMIN DEUELL '08, PAT MOLER EGLE '60, and CHRISTOPHER K. ROBERTSON '89 were elected to the board at the Foundation's September 27, 2018 board meeting. Additionally, ROBERT H. JENSENIUS '72 was re-elected to the board, while Dr. Jason Best was reappointed by President MARY J.C. HENDRIX '74 as the organization's faculty representative and KENNETH BOONE '76 was reappointed as the Alumni Association's representative. Cecelia Mason, chair of Shepherd University's Classified Employees Council, joined the organization as a director-at-large.

In welcoming its new directors, the Foundation recognized three outgoing board members as well. WILLIAM E. KNODE, JR. '58, ANDREW D. MICHAEL '75, and MICHAEL A. SMITH '89 received commemorative gifts along with grateful acknowledge-

ment for their service. Smith was also elected as a director emeritus. He previously served as the board's president and, more recently, as its vice president. TIMOTHY B. MCSHEA '80 was elected to replace Smith as vice president. McShea has served the board since 2011. CHRISTOPHER S. COLBERT '95, KARL L. WOLF '70, and JULIA M. CONNELL '84 will continue in their respective roles as the organization's president, secretary, and treasurer. ■



ABOVE: New board members joining Foundation officers are (l. to r.) Chris Robertson '89, Ben Deuell '08, Foundation President Chris Colbert '95, Foundation Executive Vice President Monica Lingenfelter, and Pat Egle '60.

Farm-to-table dinner raises more than \$10,000 for Last Dollar Fund

In October 2018, a farm-to-table dinner sponsored by the Shepherd University Foundation and hosted by ERIC '95 and JOY '91 LEWIS of Shepherdstown raised more than \$10,000 for Shepherd's Last Dollar Fund, including a \$2,500 matching challenge from Jefferson Security Bank.

The event's Appalachian-inspired menu was prepared by Mike Costello and Amy Dawson of Lost Creek Farm in Harrison County and included dishes such as corn chowder with toasted squash seeds; heirloom beans and pork three ways; and black walnut and buckwheat buttermilk sheet cake. Every ingredient was grown on the couple's farm, purchased in Charles Town the morning of the dinner, or purchased elsewhere in the state. Members of Shepherd's Sigma Sigma Sigma sorority helped serve the feast.

Host Eric Lewis, who chairs the Shepherd University Board of Governors, said the idea for the event came about after watching the West Virginia-centric episode of *Anthony Bourdain: Parts Unknown* featuring Lost Creek Farm. He and Joy offered to have Costello and Dawson prepare dinner at their home to raise money for the Last Dollar Fund, which assists students who are in good academic standing with help paying their tuition bills.

If you are interested in making a gift to the Last Dollar Fund, please contact Sherri Janelle, executive director of development, at 304-876-5043 or sjanelle@shepherd.edu. ■



ABOVE: A farm-to-table dinner, hosted by alumni Eric '95 and Joy '91 Lewis at their farm near Shepherdstown, raised \$10,000 for the Last Dollar Fund, which helps Shepherd students pay their tuition bills.

The Foundation

Leave a Legacy

NANCY NEEDY '55 had a nurturing soul. As the beloved librarian at South Middle School in Martinsburg, she once took under her wing a young SARA LUECK '67, the newly hired librarian at Jefferson High School.

"At the time there were no other school librarians in Jefferson County, so Nancy brought me into the fold with the ones in Berkeley County," said Sara. "That's just the way she was. She made things work. You knew you could count on her."

Likewise, JIM STALEY '68 recalls Nancy's supportive nature as his 7th grade language arts teacher at Martinsburg Junior High in the late 1950s. Having traveled 12 miles from Scrabble to attend school in Martinsburg, Jim felt out of his element in the far more urban environment.

"She was someone whom I admired and who made me feel comfortable in this 'big city' school," he said, noting that he already knew Nancy through family. "My mother was a Needy. We think we were second cousins."

The following year, Nancy became the school's librarian and offered Jim a volunteer job as library assistant. The two later lost touch when Jim entered high school only to reconnect years later at a Women for Shepherd University (WSU) event that Jim attended with his wife, Mary "Peachy" Staley '70. The couple began socializing with Nancy, who once joined them for a week in Punta Gorda, Florida, where the Staleys spend winters.

"It was Shepherd that brought us back together," he continued. "Nancy always talked fondly of Shepherd. It was in her backyard, which is why she was able to go to college and get a degree."

Nancy graduated from Shepherd in 1955 with a major in secondary education. But she was also a student of life, having traveled to many parts of the United States and overseas before and after her retirement. Back home, an avid love of maps led her to serve as a longtime volunteer at the Interstate 81 Visitors Center near Marlowe.

In addition to traveling, Nancy pursued many other hobbies and interests throughout her active life. She regularly served as a hostess for the Berkeley County House and Garden Tour and was a season ticket holder at Shenandoah University Conservatory for many years. A passionate supporter of historic Mount Zion Baptist Church in Kearneysville, she helped fund period lighting for the place of worship where her funeral service would one day be held. And she remained actively involved with her alma mater as a member of the Scarborough Society, Phi Sigma Chi, and Women Investing in Shepherd (WISH).

Nancy touched the lives of many throughout her long and rewarding career in public education. Now she will touch many more through the Nancy E. Needy Scholarship, established through a bequest in her will before her death in April 2017. A significant portion of her estate gift will also support the Scar-



Nancy Needy '55 (l.) and her Joseph P. McMurren Society membership plaque (above).

Sam Levitan

borough Society.

"She was very charitable," said close friend BONNIE BRANNON '63, who gave a moving eulogy at Nancy's funeral. "And she felt it was Shepherd that put her in a position to be able to work and succeed."

It was this philanthropic spirit and commitment to Shepherd that led to Nancy's decision to share her lifelong financial achievements with the university. As a result, her legacy will endure through the countless deserving students who will benefit from her generosity and foresight. ■ **Kristin Alexander**

Join us on May 4 for the annual Joseph P. McMurren Society dinner

Hosted by President Mary J.C. Hendrix '74 and sponsored by the Shepherd University Foundation, the Joseph P. McMurren Society dinner reception brings together society members and their guests, along with Shepherd University faculty and administrators, to honor those alumni and friends who have generously chosen to share their lifelong financial achievements with the university through estate and other planned gifts. Held in the atrium of the Erma Ora Byrd Hall, the annual event features a seated four-course dinner.

Last year, the Joseph P. McMurren Society was pleased to welcome Gerald W. '77 and Bonnie Broy Dodson, Lynn E. Leatherman '92, and Barbara K. '52 and Richard S. Nickell as its newest members at the April 21 dinner reception. This year, the event will be held on Saturday, May 4 at 6 p.m.

If you would like to receive an invitation, please contact Monica Lingenfelter at 304-876-5397 or mlingenf@shepherd.edu.

For more information about the Joseph P. McMurren Society, visit shepherduniversityfoundation.org. ■

All-Steinway: Inspiring students with timeless excellence

Shepherd University launched its All-Steinway Campaign in October 2017 with the goal of investing in 28 new Steinway & Sons pianos, ensuring that students studying and performing music on all levels will have access to a Steinway piano in every university practice room, teaching studio, and performance space. To earn the All-Steinway School designation, 90 percent of the university's pianos must be Steinway-made. To support this endeavor, the Department of Music has partnered with alumni and friends to present parlor performances featuring Shepherd students and faculty. Bringing together music lovers in an intimate setting, these cozy events highlight the need for quality instruments for Shepherd's music program. The campaign has so far resulted in donations and pledges to acquire three Boston UP-126 upright pianos and two Steinway & Sons Model B classic grand pianos, the benefits of which are evident to those using them.

"As a pianist, having a real piano—whether it be upright or grand—is vital to practicing successfully," said KORINNE MYERS '21, of Martinsburg, who is pursuing a B.M. in piano performance. "With the new Steinways, performance is elevated; there is a beautiful sound and a plethora of playing possibilities, from a gentle pianissimo to a booming forte to a plucky staccato. Using these carefully crafted instruments is a privilege to us pianists and to those who might hear us play."

Read on to discover how other Shepherd music students are benefiting from the All-Steinway Campaign and learn how your private gifts truly make a difference in the lives of our students.



Heidi Macaluso '18

The new Boston Steinway pianos have been a joy on which to play and teach! I am very thankful to have such high-quality instruments to be able to use during my lessons. As a piano teacher in Shepherd University's Community Music Program, I have the opportunity to see first-hand how much the community is benefitting from these pianos."

Heidi Macaluso '18

Shippensburg, Pennsylvania
B.A. Piano Pedagogy

Support Shepherd's Community Music Program

Students, faculty, and nearly 500 community members will benefit from Shepherd's investment in Steinway & Sons pianos.

To learn more about Shepherd's Community Music program, contact Sherry Sykes, coordinator, at 304-876-5248 or ssykes@shepherd.edu.

To make a gift in support of young aspiring musicians from the community, contact the Foundation at 304-876-5526 or visit online at shepherduniversityfoundation.org.

Being able to practice on one of the Boston uprights that was purchased for the department is one thing, but having the opportunity to teach using it is a whole new enriching experience. I've been able to watch my students, ranging from ages 4 to 64, explore the wonders of a new instrument. Being able to let them do so on a piano with such good intonation and responsive touch on each individual key is wonderful. My students are able to understand what a quality piano is supposed to sound like, and I am able to teach each lesson without worrying about the sound of the piano or any issues that may come about with older pianos."

Jennifer Forbes '19

Purcellville, Virginia

B.M. Piano Performance/B.A. Psychology

I am honored to be able to play on instruments of such high caliber as the Steinway & Sons pianos and the Boston uprights. To have access to something like this is incredibly amazing and enriching in itself, and I believe that I benefit greatly from this addition. As I perform or practice on these wonderful instruments, I feel almost transported to this otherworldly place where all the madness seems to come together to finally make sense. In experiencing this sort of musical euphoria, I reach a level of progress that I do not believe I could achieve otherwise."

Sophie Palmer '21

Martinsburg

B.M.E./B.A. Piano Pedagogy and Vocal Concentration

Become a Steinway Parlor Patron by hosting an event

To become a Parlor Patron and provide a performance venue in your home or one of many available alternate locations, contact Stacy McFarland, director of annual giving, Shepherd University Foundation, at 304-876-5526 or smcfarla@shepherd.edu.



It is not required for patrons to own a Steinway & Sons piano or a grand piano to host an event. Foundation staff members are available to assist throughout all stages of planning a parlor performance.



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Cecelia Mason

The Shepherd University Foundation held its first ever Thank a Donor Day on November 14, 2018. Hundreds of students, faculty, and staff took the opportunity to sign more than 400 personal notes of gratitude, create video messages, and display photos thanking those who make gifts of all sizes to support Shepherd. The university benefits greatly from the contributions of donors, which provide sustaining support for academic, scholarship, cultural, and athletic programs, faculty and staff development, campus renewal and beautification, and other programs and initiatives. Thank a Donor Day is meant to remind the campus community that every unique Shepherd experience is impacted by the continued support of our alumni and friends. Please visit <https://youtu.be/XynHx5AGpJM> to view video highlights of the day.