

# Profiles

Shepherd University

Faculty and Staff Professional Activities • Fall 2019

## College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences

**DR. JAMES J. BROOMALL**, associate professor of history and director of the George Tyler Moore Center for the Study of the Civil War (GTMC), offered a number of presentations throughout the spring and summer. In May, as part of the U.S. Capitol Historical Society Symposium in Washington, D.C., he presented “The Soldier as Artist: James Hope and the Battle of Antietam.” From June 14-18, Dr. Broomall served on the faculty of Gettysburg College’s annual Civil War Institute where he led a discussion with high school scholarship winners, presented a lecture titled “‘The Very Jaws of Destruction and Death’: The Emotional Landscapes of the Gettysburg Battlefield,” and led a tour of Antietam National Battlefield with Professors Peter S. Carmichael (Gettysburg College) and Keith Bohannon (University of West Georgia). Additionally, he presented at the Loudoun Museum, the Kanawha Valley Civil War Round Table, the Chambersburg Civil War Seminars and Tours, and the Charlestown Civil War Round Table. Dr. Broomall gave a number of public talks including partaking in the Hops and History series in Purcellville, Virginia, serving as a speaker for Winchester, Virginia’s Handley Library, and presenting his research on race and slavery in the lower Shenandoah Valley for a National Park Service project before members of and volunteers at Belle Grove Plantation, Middletown, Virginia.

Invested in public history, Dr. Broomall delivered a series of livestream presentations from Civil War battlefields featured on social media this summer for the GTMC, The Tattooed Historian, Civil War Pittsburgh, and Pennsylvania in the Civil War. He also assisted the National Museum of Civil War Medicine’s annual program for the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences by facilitating discussions with the nation’s future military medical leaders at the Antietam National Battlefield’s Burnside Bridge in August.

**DR. RACHEL CARLSON**, assistant professor of music and director of choral activities, had her article “Sight-Reading Insights from Professional Choral Singers: How They Learned and Implications for the Choral Classroom” published in the August 2019 issue of the *Choral Journal*. Dr. Carlson also led an interest session on Teaching Sight-Reading in the Choral Classroom and an Advanced SATB

Reading Session at the Voices United American Choral Directors Association Conference at George Mason University, August 1-3.

**DR. HEIDI M. HANRAHAN**, professor of English, and **DR. AMY DEWITT**, professor of sociology, presented a paper, “‘The Asylum is waiting for you’: Analyzing Trans Allegheny Lunatic Asylum’s ‘Criminally Insane Tour,’” at the Mid-Atlantic Popular and American Culture Conference in Pittsburgh, November 7-9.

**DR. CHIQUITA HOWARD-BOSTIC**, associate professor of sociology and chair of the Department of Sociology, Criminology, and Criminal Justice, was appointed as the director of Academic Innovative Initiatives in August. In August, Dr. Howard-Bostic was also selected to serve as an external reviewer for tenured faculty at the University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg.

On September 3 and 4, Dr. Howard-Bostic and **DR. RICHIE STEVENS**, dean of graduate and professional studies and faculty affairs, provided a Focus on Student Learning (FOSL) session titled, “Classroom Civility Issues: Short- and Long-term Approaches and Responses.” This session explored how faculty can produce and maintain a civil, healthy classroom-learning environment. On September 5, Dr. Howard-Bostic facilitated a social activism panel of Shepherd alumnae as part of the Student Affairs Social Justice Project. On September 27, she led a campus and community discussion and organized a study circle workshop titled “Tumbling Monuments, Fractious Politics, Post-Obama and Black Lives Matter: A Community Discussion” at the Robert C. Byrd Center for Congressional History and Education in partnership with the Center for Appalachian Studies and Communities.

On October 22, the Spiritual Care and Education Department at Meritus Health Center in Hagerstown, Maryland, hosted its annual health conference, Hospitality: Cultivating Space, with Dr. Howard-Bostic as featured speaker. She presented a lecture titled, “HealthySpace: Addressing Physical and Social Realities.” On December 14, Dr. Howard-Bostic will deliver a keynote address titled “Women in Power” at Butler Mansion in Buffalo, New York. This leadership event is sponsored by Leadership for a Brighter Tomorrow, a nonprofit social justice organization in Western New York.

On October 9 and 10, Dr. Howard-Bostic launched a multi-



Dr. James J. Broomall



Dr. Rachel Carlson



Dr. Heidi M. Hanrahan



Dr. Chiquita  
Howard-Bostic

campus digital-learning teaching and research initiative called the Breaking Resistance Social Justice Documentary (BRSJD) Project with **DR. JULIA SANDY**, associate professor of history, and COPLAC partner, Dr. Paulette Cross, assistant professor of teacher education and director of Africana Studies at Georgia College. Katie Couric's award-winning film, *Gender Revolution*, was shown at each campus. At Shepherd, Dr. Howard-Bostic facilitated a theory-focused dialogue. Event participants were asked to complete a survey about gender identities. Students in SOCI 321: Social Stratification and GWST 200: Intro Gender and Women's Studies also completed a course assessment. Findings will be presented at a professional conference in the spring. The project was sponsored by the Gender and Women's Studies program.

Students enrolled in Dr. Howard-Bostic's course SOCI 321 will also participate in a Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL) project. Shepherd signed an agreement with professors of law, Dr. Monica Sapucaia Machado (Instituto Brasileiro de Direito Publico in Brasília-Brazil) and Dr. Denise de Almeida (University Center Christus in Fortaleza CE-Brazil). Students enrolled at the three institutions will participate in three constructive workshops with in-depth video conversations about gender identities and the roles of science, society, and culture. The COIL initiative is a partnership with OneClick.chat.

**DR. MATTHEW J. KUSHIN**, associate professor of mass communications, recently published the book *Teach Social Media: A Plan for Creating a Course Your Students Will Love*. The book was a number one new release in the education classroom management category on Amazon.com.

Dr. Kushin was the lead author on a co-authored publication in *Social Media & Society* titled "Societal Majority, Facebook, and the Spiral of Silence in the 2016 Presidential Election." He was also a co-author on two peer-reviewed scholarly presentations which were presented at the World Communication Association Biennial Conference in Wellington, New Zealand. He has served as a reviewer for the *Journal of Public Relations Education*. He attended the Ninth Annual Social Media Technology Conference and Workshop at Howard University, October 3.

Dr. Kushin traveled to New York City this past June as part of the Advertising Education Foundation's 2019 Visiting Professors Program class which comprised a select group of faculty from across the country. There he learned skills and knowledge to enhance his teaching from leading advertising agencies and media companies, including Ogilvy, McCann, Facebook, IBM, and R/GA.

Dr. Kushin spoke at the Stukent Digital Marketing Summit this past August on the topic of using Facebook Audience Insights in the classroom. The event was a virtual conference attended by educators from around the world. He was a virtual guest lecturer in Dr. Earvin Charles Catalquinto's course on digital media entrepreneurship at Deakon University in Melbourne, Australia.

He, along with members of the Lectures & Libations Committee, received a grant from the Paul and Lisa Welch Endowment Award to support the 2019-2020 Lectures & Libations speaker series, which features talks by Shepherd faculty and staff.

Dr. Kushin serves as the advisor to the Shepherd University chapter of the National Millennial Community, an organization that creates opportunities for communication department students to interface with executives at companies in public relations, media, and advertising.

**DR. CARRIE MESSENGER**, associate professor of English, was a featured reader and panelist at the Delta Mouth Literary Festival this April at Louisiana State University. This weekend-long festival brought fiction writers, poets, and translators from all over the country together for a series of readings and panels on LSU's campus and in downtown Baton Rouge. This summer, Dr. Messenger and **DR. HEIDI HANRAHAN**, professor of English, were guest speakers for the Shepherdstown Public Library's Little Women Tea Party and Discussion. This discussion included community members and some Shepherd alumni, and the group agreed that this novel is still surprisingly relevant to contemporary times.

**DAVID R. MODLER**, associate professor of art and coordinator of art education, installed an exhibit called tet[r]ad: Draw and Play Here Session #10 in the Gormley Gallery at Notre Dame University of Maryland in Baltimore earlier this year. This interactive site-responsive art installation invited the local community to participate not just as art viewers but also as art makers. A public lecture and several hands-on workshop accompanied the exhibition. Additional information can be found at [www.drawandplayhere.com](http://www.drawandplayhere.com).

In March, he presented a lecture titled "The Visual Journal: A Way of Knowing in the Process of Becoming" and facilitated the workshop Troubling Notions of Accomplishment Through the Mischief and Mayhem of the TASK at the National Art Education Association Convention in Boston.

At the International Congress for Qualitative Inquiry in Champaign-Urbana, Illinois, Modler presented a visual essay titled "Visual Journal Phenomena as Non-Human Object: A mechanism for communal habits of experience" and implemented an interactive art action that has come to be known as tet[R]ad: Draw and Play Here, Session#11 in May.

In June, he facilitated a professional development workshop for the K-12 educators of Baltimore County, Maryland, Public Schools. Lectures and hands-on activities focused on The Visual Journal and Authentic Art Making Practices.

At the International Society for Education through Art in Vancouver, British Columbia, in July, he presented lectures titled "tet[R]ad: Forging Visual Conversations" and "tet[R]ad: Collaborative Exchange" and activated a maker space that was called, tet[R]ad: Draw and Play Here, Session#12.



Dr. Matthew J. Kushin



Dr. Carrie Messenger



David R. Modler



Dr. John E. Stealey III

Modler installed an exhibition of his studio work titled *Troubling Transgressive Tendencies: Then and Now* at the Jefferson County Arts Council Gallery in Charles Town in September. The show functioned like a genealogy, tracing the line of inquiry that has occupied the past 10 years of his studio practice.

In October, he facilitated a professional development workshop for the K-12 visual arts educators of Cecil County, Maryland, Public Schools. Lectures and hands-on activities focused on *The Visual Journal as a Platform for Teaching and Learning*. Also in October, Modler delivered the keynote address for the Oklahoma Art Education Association Conference in Oklahoma City.

**DR. ROBERT A. POLLARD**, adjunct instructor of history, is the chair of the Loudoun County, Virginia, Heritage Commission. He is the editor, as well as the author of some of the articles, of the commission's *The History of the County Courthouse and Its Role in the Path to Freedom, Justice, and Racial Equality in Loudoun County* available at <https://www.loudoun.gov/DocumentCenter/View/151802/Heritage-Commission-Report-With-Cover-Page>.

**TONY SCHIERA**, lecturer of English, presented "Tutor Positioning in Middle East North African Writing Centers' Training Material" at the International Writing Centers Association annual international conference, Columbus, Ohio, in October. His presentation explored results of a study examining in-house produced tutor training documents from Middle East North Africa writing centers (WC) to glean how those documents position tutors to be WC tutors and/or English language tutors. Results of this study can provide a better understanding of WCs in local and global contexts and offer suggestions for best practices to align tutors with their training through positioning (Harré, 2012; James, 2014) ultimately helping WC directors and tutor trainers in the art of training tutors.

**DR. JOHN E. STEALEY III**, Distinguished Professor Emeritus of History, attended the annual meeting of the Organization of American Historians, April 4-7, in Philadelphia. By participating in such meetings, Dr. Stealey maintains currency in his several fields of specialization, receives inspiration and ideas for his research and writing endeavors, visits old friends who are diminishing in number because of actuarial realities and makes new ones, and discusses research projects with other historians. On this occasion, he met with several editors to determine their interest in considering for publication a manuscript for his projected fifth university press book.

Dr. Stealey attended the 10th annual meeting of the Society of Appalachian Historians, May 19-21. Organized this year by the University of Virginia at Wise, the meeting occurred at the Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center at Abingdon. This group grew out of the annual supper of Appalachian historians held for many years at the Southern Historical Association meeting. It is

a very stimulating and congenial gathering for historians who research, write, and teach in the field.

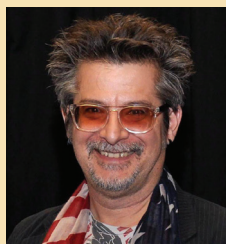
Dr. Stealey published a book review of Caroline E. Janney, ed., *Petersburg to Appomattox: The End of the War in Virginia* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2018), in *The Journal of American History*, 106, No. 1 (June 2019): 183-85. The volume is part of The Military Campaigns of the Civil War series, formerly edited by Gary W. Gallagher of the University of Virginia and now by Janney.

On September 28, Dr. Stealey spoke at the Third Annual BB&T Malden Salt Fest at Malden, near Charleston. He spoke about the institution of slavery as it existed in the Great Kanawha salt industry. The greatest concentration of slaves in Appalachia toiled in the Kanawha Salines. Malden was the center of the salt manufacturing enterprise where more than 1,900 African Americans labored and created enormous prosperity for some whose family wealth has survived until the present time. One firm employed 256 owned and leased slaves. The Great Kanawha salt industry has been the subject of Stealey's Ph.D. dissertation, two university/academic press books, and four peer-reviewed articles in scholarly journals.

**DR. KEVIN WILLIAMS**, professor of mass communications, has a new book chapter, "The Bene Gesserit's Transcendental Pragmatism," published in *The Scholars of Dune*, N. Trevor Brierly and Dominic J. Nardi (Eds.), McFarland & Company, 2020. The book is designed to coincide with the Denis Villeneuve *Dune* feature film. He is also using his book, *The Wisdom of the Sand: Philosophy and Frank Herbert's Dune*, in a seminar during the fall semester, Sci-Fi Studies: Dune.

## College of Business

**DR. JANINE SAM**, assistant professor of business administration and financial planning program director, had her article "Financial Capability: Literacy, Behavior and Distress" published in the fall 2019 issue of the *Financial Services Review*. This past summer she was appointed to the Shepherd University Foundation's Board of Directors as the president's faculty representative. Dr. Sam was also appointed as the 2019-2020 president of the Academy of Financial Services, an international organization dedicated to disseminating financial planning research and best teaching practices. She co-presented an article titled "Life insurance ownership—a perspective from relationship quality" at the Academy of Financial Services and Financial Planning Association's joint conference research session in Minneapolis in October. In November, Dr. Sam accompanied financial planning students to the Certified Financial Planning Board's Diversity Summit in Washington, D.C. She is currently the faculty advisor for the financial planning club and works with students to promote financial literacy on campus.



Dr. Kevin Williams



Dr. Janine Sam



Dr. Cindy Vance



Dr. Ametta Fletcher



**DR. CINDY VANCE**, associate professor of accounting and chair of the Department of Accounting, co-founded the Shenandoah Valley Chapter (SVC) of the Virginia Society of Certified Public Accountants. The organization will provide local opportunities for CPAs and accounting students in Winchester, Virginia, and the surrounding area, including West Virginia's Eastern Panhandle. The SVC mission is to promote continuing education for its members, enhance leadership skills and technical competencies, advocate for interests, and influence students to become CPAs. During the summer, she attended the Virginia Society of CPAs Educators' Exchange and Leaders' Summit in Richmond, Virginia, and the VA-Specific Ethics course in Winchester, Virginia. Additionally, Dr. Vance is the advisor of the Shepherd University Accounting Club, a faculty senator, a member of the Admissions and Credits and Scholarships and Awards committees, and a member of the Shepherd University Alumni Association Board of Directors. She maintains her Virginia CPA license and serves as a finance consultant as needed.

## College of Nursing, Education, and Health Sciences

**DR. ARNETTA FLETCHER**, assistant professor of family and consumer sciences and program director of FACS, Nutrition and Dietetics, participated in several initiatives related to food, nutrition, and wellness.

In the spring, Dr. Fletcher presented information on the importance of interstate collaboration in nutrition and dietetics at the West Virginia Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics' Annual Meeting. She traveled to Hampton, Virginia, for a regional Farm to School Conference. As an attendee, Dr. Fletcher explored overarching issues addressing community- and school-based child nutrition outcomes in Loudoun and Fairfax counties in Virginia as well as neighboring eastern counties of West Virginia.

In the summer, Dr. Fletcher served as a facilitator for the Jefferson County Farm to School Institute to help participants understand the importance of developing healthy eating habits in children. The purpose of this institute was to provide teachers, cafeteria personnel, and other school administrators with the skill set and resources to educate students on garden-based learning and sound health and nutritional practices, build community partnerships for the school, and help parents and school staff take the necessary steps to enhance the nutritional quality of school meals. Dr. Fletcher had an integral role in the formation of the program. Her contribution to the program was discussed during an interview with Herald Mail Media in August.

In the fall, Dr. Fletcher participated in a strategic communication project by the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (AND). One result of the project was a short film that debuted during AND's 2019 Opening Session of the Food and Nutrition Conference and

Expo in October. The video (<https://www.eatrightpro.org/media/multimedia-news-center/videos/Interdisciplinary-Role-of-Nutrition-in-Education>) is a part of a national collaboration that features Dr. Fletcher and several dietitians and the impact they're making within their professions and local communities.

**STEPHEN MCPHERSON**, coordinator of the educator preparation program and accreditation/compliance, has been selected by the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP, formerly NCATE) to serve as a national site visitor for CAEP accreditation team this coming March 2020. He received training to serve as a state and national site visitor in October 2018 and has already completed his first accreditation site visit and follow-up reporting as a state site visitor this past March through August.

In August, McPherson was invited to expand his role as a national site visitor for CAEP to a university in another state seeking accreditation. In this role, McPherson investigates the evidence provided by the college/university (EPP) during the CAEP accreditation process. He will serve as a representative of Shepherd University and the state of West Virginia, as part of a site visit team that analyzes the quality of the evidence provided by the education program provider, including its consistency or inconsistency of the provider's claims during the accreditation cycle. He will work with the site team to analyze the strength of the evidence in demonstrating satisfaction of the CAEP standards and the description of particular strengths or deficiencies. The site visit team will make its report to the CAEP Accreditation Council for approval or denial of accreditation of the educator preparation program for the college/university some time next spring or early summer.

**DR. JENNIFER L. (JENNY) PENLAND**, associate professor of education and director of the School of Education, recently presented new research titled "Fractal Imagery and Culturally Responsive Dialogue: An Indigenous Focus" at the Fourth Canadian International Edu Teach Conference in Toronto this summer and was invited to return as a keynote speaker in July 2020. Dr. Penland has also been accepted to present at the Ireland International Conference on Education, October 22-24, as well as the London International Conference on Education in December. This past year, Dr. Penland published book chapters related to cultural resilience and academic innovations with IGI's Handbooks of Research on Educational Technology Integration and Active Learning, Learner Centered Pedagogy in Teacher Education and Professional Development, Pedagogical Models for Next Generation Teaching and Learners, Innovative Pedagogies and Best Practices in Teacher Education, and Literacy and Digital Technology Integration in Teacher Education.



Stephen McPherson



Dr. Jennifer L. Penland



Dr. Jason Best



Dr. Jeff Groff

## College of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics

**DR. JASON BEST**, professor of astronomy and astrophysics and director of strategic research initiatives, attended the Higher Learning Commission's 2019 Annual Conference: Roadmaps for Student Success in Chicago in April. HLC's annual conference is one of the largest events of its kind in higher education, with approximately 4,000 administrators and faculty members attending each year. The conference covered a broad range of topics, including HLC policies and guidelines, institutional experiences with accreditation processes and best practices, assessment of student learning, quality improvement, institutional effectiveness, and professional development.

Dr. Best attended the 2019 WV EPSCoR NSF RII Track 1: Gravitational Wave Astronomy and the Appalachian Freshwater Initiative All-Hands Meeting at Marshall University in June, where he presented a research poster on pulsar analysis co-authored with a former student who is now at the University of Virginia.

Dr. Best attended the First2 Network STEM Alliance Spring Conference 2019: Sharpening the Vision in Charleston in May. The First2 Network Alliance is an NSF INCLUDES-funded project that seeks to form and grow a network of people from academia, government, industry, and the nonprofit sector who have the power to increase STEM persistence of first-generation, rural students throughout West Virginia. He has also joined the First2 Network's Capacity Building Working Group.

Dr. Best continues to serve on the national Council on Undergraduate Research Task Force on Integrating Research into the Curriculum and the West Virginia Science Public Outreach Team Steering Committee. He has also served as a founding advisor to ACE ENGAGE, a new virtual platform being developed by the American Council on Education to support higher education leaders as they navigate the rapidly changing realities of higher education.

**DR. JEFF GROFF**, associate professor of physics, appeared on the September 22 episode of *Emerald Planet* broadcast on Fairfax Public Access Channel 10. His article "Teaching Energy Physics for Environmental Studies: A Course Summary" was accepted for publication in *The Physics Educator*, an international peer-reviewed journal.

**DR. LAURA ROBERTSON**, assistant professor of biology, has two original art quilts that are included in a project called Inspired by Endangered Species by Donna DeSoto. The project was published as a book in November and the quilts will travel the United States for the next four years. A subset of the quilts, including one by Dr. Robertson, was chosen for an exhibit at the Library of Congress in June. Another subset of quilts also included one by Robertson,

was chosen for a special exhibit at the Houston International Quilt Festival in November. To learn more about the project, visit <http://inspiredbyendangeredspecies.blogspot.com/p/iesexhibits.html>.

Dr. Robertson also had two quilts included in an earlier project of Donna DeSoto's called Inspired by the National Parks. The final exhibit for that project was September 2019. One of her quilts, Great Smoky Mountains Fauna: Laura Robertson (Synchronous Fireflies), is featured on the website <https://www.npscentennialquilts.com/p/npsquilts.html>.

**DR. CAROL Z. PLAUTZ**, adjunct research professor of biology, and two recent Shepherd graduates, Amaris S. Jalil and Sneha B. Reddy, co-authored a paper appearing in June 2019 in the journal *Toxicology Research and Application* titled "Cellular effects of diquat dibromide exposure: Interference with Wnt signaling and cytoskeletal development." The research was conducted at Shepherd University and published in advance of both student authors beginning medical school, Jalil at WVU School of Medicine and Reddy at West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine.

## School of Graduate and Professional Studies

**DR. RICHARD STEVENS**, dean of graduate and professional studies and faculty affairs and associate professor of college student development and administration, was invited to serve as co-chair of ACPA-College Student Educator's Next Gen Institute for 2020. This two-day international institute prepares undergraduate juniors and seniors as they consider a career in student services, student affairs, enrollment management, and similar roles at colleges and universities. The institute will be held in early March in Nashville, Tennessee, with approximately 125 students in attendance. Dr. Stevens was also recently selected to serve as an expert reviewer for the Council for the Advancement of Standards (CAS) in Higher Education's Masters preparation standards. These standards are used nationally as benchmarks for self-assessment for functional areas within many higher education departments.

## Scarborough Library

**RACHEL HALLY**, coordinator of collections at Scarborough Library, served as co-principal investigator with **DR. JEFF GROFF**, associate professor of physics, on a \$100,000 grant to install 189 solar panels on the Scarborough Library roof. The solar panels are expected to generate 67,000 kwh of electricity annually and are projected to save a minimum of \$120,000 in electricity charges for the university over their 20+ year lifespan. The grant was made possible by EBSCO Information Services, a Massachusetts-based library database vendor. The solar installation will be incorporated into various classes as a way for students to understand the magnitude of our energy consumption and learn about various methods of alternative energy production.



Dr. Laura Robertson



Dr. Carol Z. Plautz



Dr. Richard Stevens



Rachel Hally

Hally also received a three-year, \$30,000 grant from the Shepherd University Foundation's Scarborough Society to rejuvenate the children's literature collection at Scarborough Library, which is a critical resource for Shepherd's early childhood, elementary, and secondary education students, as well as students studying creative writing. She is updating the children's literature collection with books and other materials that help children learn about diversity, multiculturalism, social issues like race, gender discrimination, disabilities, and bullying, and global literature, music, and art. Hally hosted five events for the community during the summer to celebrate the new children's collection, including author readings, craft activities, story times, and a beekeeping demonstration from Dr. Groff.

In September, she was invited to speak at the inaugural Manuscript to Marketplace: Writers Conference at Shepherd University about how authors can effectively market their books to collection development librarians and how academic libraries make their purchasing decisions.

## Teaching, Learning, and Instructional Resources

CYNTHIA COPNEY, director of TRiO Programs, is the president of the West Virginia TRiO Association. She also serves on the TRiO regional board, the Mid-Eastern Association of Educational Opportunity Program Personnel, which includes all TRiO programs in the states of West Virginia, Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Delaware, and Washington, D.C. She wrote and was awarded the Paul T. Spraggins State Initiative Grant for the state of West Virginia. This award will be used to help build a strong presence for the West Virginia TRiO Alumni Association through the "Where Are They Now" campaign and celebration.

Copney also received a certificate of completion for her participation in an Executive Leadership Summit hosted by the Council for Opportunity in Education and Cornell University.

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*Profiles • Fall 2019*

*Profiles, Faculty and Staff Professional Activities* is published each semester by the Office of University Communications. Send information about your professional activities to Valerie Owens at [vowens@shepherd.edu](mailto:vowens@shepherd.edu).

## Administration

**ESPERANZA ALZONA**, operations manager for the School of Music, was a member of the U.S. team for the 2019 Pan American Youth and Veteran Fencing Championships held in Cochabamba, Bolivia. She made the medal stand in all three of her events, winning Silver in Veteran 2 Women's Epée, Bronze in Veteran 2 Women's Foil, and Bronze in Veteran 2 Women's Saber. This is her seventh time to represent the U.S.A. in this major international fencing competition.

**PROVOST SCOTT BEARD**, artistic director of the Washington Opera Society, performed as narrator to a sold-out audience for Verdi's *Il Trovatore* (The Troubadour) and other Verdi masterpieces on September 28 at the University Club in Washington, D.C. Dr. Beard led an all-star cast that included Maestro Julien Benichou, conductor, Lisa Chavez of the New York City Opera, and Kevin Shortt of the Metropolitan Opera. He directed and narrated the Washington Opera Society's production of *Land of Smiles* by Franz Lehár at the Austrian Embassy on November 23.

**SIRIKI DIABATE**, international admissions officer/recruiter, presented a paper "Innovative Partnership for Global Learning: Strategies and Lessons Learned" at the Phi Beta Delta Honor Society for International Scholars 33rd annual International Conference at Shepherd University, May 31-June 1. He talked about promoting global learning and detailed a model for developing partnerships with embassies to create opportunities for U.S. students to work and study abroad and to bring international students to U.S. campuses. Diabate also recently started Shepherd's CSDA graduate program. He is in his second semester of the program.

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

Malchenko, S, Sredni S, Boyineni J, Bi Y, Margaryan N, Guda M, Kostenko Y, Tomita T, Davuluri R, Velpula K, Hendrix MJC and Soares M. Characterization of brain tumor initiating cells isolated from an animal model of CNS primitive neuroectodermal tumors. *Oncotarget* 9:9(17):13733-13747, 2018. PMID:29568390

Moreno-Smith M, Halder JB, Meltzer PS, Gonda TA, Mangala LS, Rupaimoole R, Lu C, Nagaraja AS, Gharpure KM, Kang Y, Rodriguez-Aguayo C, Vivas-Mejia PE, Zand B, Schmandt R, Wang H, Langley RR, Jennings NB, Ivan C, Coffin JE, Armaiz GN, Bottsford-Miller J, Kim SB, Halleck MS, Hendrix MJ, Bornman W, Bar-Eli M, Lee JS, Siddik ZH, Lopez-Berestein G, Sood AK. ATP11B mediates platinum resistance in ovarian cancer. *J Clin Invest* 128(7):3199, 2018. PMID:29809169



Cynthia Copney



Esperanza Alzona



Dr. Scott Beard



Siriki Diabate



Ugol'kov AV, Bondarenko GI, Dubrovskiy O, Berbegall AP, Navarro S, Noguera R, O'Halloran TV, Hendrix MJ, Giles FJ, Mazar AP. 9-ING-41, a small-molecule glycogen synthase kinase-3 inhibitor, is active in neuroblastoma. *Anticancer Drugs* 29(8):717-724, 2018. PMID:29846250

Thijssen VL, Paulis YW, Nowak-Sliwinska P, Deumelandt KL, Hosaka K, Soetekouw PM, Cimpean AM, Raica M, Pauwels P, van den Oord JJ, Tjan-Heijnen VC, Hendrix MJ, Heldin CH, Cao Y, Griffioen AW. Targeting PDGF-mediated recruitment of pericytes blocks vascular mimicry and tumor growth. *J Pathol* 246(4):447-458, 2018. PMID:30101525

Margaryan NV, Hazard-Jenkins H, Salkeni MA, Smolkin MB, Coad JA, Wen S, Seftor EA, Seftor REB, Hendrix MJC. The Stem Cell Phenotype of Aggressive Breast Cancer Cells. *Cancers (Basel)* 11(3), 2019. PMID:30857267

Seftor EA, Margaryan NV, Seftor REB, Hendrix MJC. Heterogeneity of Melanoma with Stem Cell Properties. *Adv Exp Med Biol* 1139:105-114, 2019. PMID:31134497

**DR. LOIS JARMAN**, director of international affairs, presented at both the West Virginia and Western Maryland TESOL conferences in April. Her presentation was titled "Language Through Content Area Reading: A Whole Language Approach." Dr. Jarman also attended the Boren Scholarship training in Washington, D.C., in early October.

**DR. SYLVIA BAILEY SHURBUTT**, director of the Center for Appalachian Studies and Communities, traveled to Russia in August to explore the viability of that country serving as a future travel site for the Celtic Roots class, Viking monarchs up through Ivan the Terrible having served some 700 years as rulers of Slavic Russia. Dr. Shurbutt's travels are cataloged on the APST Facebook page. The Center for Appalachian Studies and Communities Speak Series received a \$6,000 grant from the President's Club for community outreach. The highlight of this fall's Speak outreach was from an array of Speak tellers doing storytelling in the community and public schools, as well as West Virginia Poet Laureate Marc Harshman's storytelling and workshoping in Jefferson and Hardy counties. The purpose of the storytelling and this community outreach is to represent the importance of storytelling and to celebrate Appalachian identity for school children.

Dr. Shurbutt and **MONICA LINGENFELTER**, executive vice president of the Shepherd University Foundation, wrote successful grants and received support from the West Virginia Humanities Council and the West Virginia Center for the Book to support Appalachian Heritage Writer-in-Residence events that took place this summer

and fall, in partnership with Affrilachian poet and award-winning novelist Crystal Wilkinson, Shepherd's Appalachian Heritage Writer-in-Residence and West Virginia's Common Read author. Wilkinson's events centered around the theme "Everybody's Street and Being Black in Appalachia." Wilkinson also selected the winners of the West Virginia Fiction Competition, which the Center manages for the West Virginia Library Commission.

Other fall events included "In Tune, A Community of Musicians" with West Virginia Public Broadcasting producer Russ Barbour, "The Food We Eat, the Stories We Tell" with state folklorist Emily Hilliard, and the November 1 Shepherd Speaks StoryCorps Project. Partners for these events include the Department of History, the Robert C. Byrd Center for Congressional History and Education, PASS, and Four Seasons Books.



Dr. Mary J.C. Hendrix



Dr. Lois Jarman



Dr. Sylvia Bailey Shurbutt