

# Shepherd

UNIVERSITY

## *Magazine*

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Outstanding Alumna  
Sue Mentzer-Blair '72



# Alumnae teachers and Master of Arts graduate students honored with Teacher of the Year awards

**T**wo public school teachers in Shepherd's Master of Arts in Curriculum and Instruction (MACI) program have been honored as Teacher of the Year by their respective schools. **Paige Palmer '17** of Ranson is a fifth-grade teacher at C.W. Shipley Elementary in Harpers Ferry, and **Caitlin Christian '18** of Winchester, Virginia, is a second-grade teacher at Gainesboro Elementary in Frederick County, Virginia.

Palmer earned her Bachelor of Arts in elementary education from Shepherd and is currently working toward her Master of Arts in curriculum and instruction. She said her experiences at Shepherd with campus organizations such as Ram Band, Relay for Life, and Kappa Delta Pi, as well as the courses she's taken, have impacted how she represents herself as a leader and teacher.

"By working toward a degree in curriculum and instruction, I am increasing my content knowledge," Palmer said. "This allows me to dive deeply into my current curriculum and analyze it to better meet the diverse needs of my students, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic."

Palmer employs a variety of strategies to engage students in reading, math, science, and social studies, including comfortable and flexible seating options to ensure her students are learning in their best environment. Palmer incorporates songs, dance, and videos utilizing the Universal Design for Learning to ensure that all students are receiving multiple means of engagement, representation, and expression. In addition, she served Jefferson County Public Schools during the COVID-19

spring extended closure by creating lessons for the county's teachers to implement during the pandemic.

Christian also has a Bachelor of Arts degree in elementary education from Shepherd and is in her third year of teaching at Gainesboro.

"I was incredibly honored to be named my school's Teacher of the Year," Christian said. "I feel as if I still have so

much to learn. The profession itself is about continuous learning. Last year ended in such an abrupt manner and this year is filled with so many changes that no teacher was prepared for. I think that earning this honor means my co-workers see that I am trying my best—much like we all are—and that I am willing to go the extra mile if it means that my students can succeed in truly unprecedented times."



**ABOVE:** Paige Palmer '17

Christian has been teaching in a hybrid model, seeing two groups of students on an alternate day schedule. She has worked to create a positive learning environment and a strong classroom community for both students in the classroom and at home.

"My educational experience from Shepherd has been valuable because even in the most challenging of situations, I have learned that students cannot learn if they do not feel comfortable, safe, and valued," she said. "This practice has been my main goal not just this school year but in past years and will continue to be my goal in the years to come. I love teaching because I love working with students and seeing the positive impact one person can have on another."

"Shepherd University is proud of its legacy of producing stellar teachers, and we are thrilled that Caitlin and Paige are receiving this highest recognition of Teacher of the Year within their schools," said Dr. Sharon Mailey, dean, College of Nursing, Education, and Health Sciences. "Caitlin and Paige are being recognized for the inspiring gift of uplifting students through their teaching which comes from the heart and the pedagogy of the profession. The award recognition is an exemplar of their passion for student learning and building success. We are so proud of Caitlin and Paige."

"The School of Graduate Studies is pleased and excited to have two of the area's finest teachers pursuing their Master of Arts in curriculum and instruction," said Dr. Richard Stevens, dean, School of Graduate and Professional Studies. "The MACI program is enriched by their contributions along with so many others who are completing their degree here at Shepherd."

■ **Cecelia Mason**



**LEFT:** Caitlin Christian '18

In fall 2020, **Master of Arts in Curriculum and Instruction program** transitioned to a fully **online and asynchronous program** headed by Dr. Belinda Mitchell, associate professor of education and MACI program coordinator, giving more flexibility to working teachers earning the degree. For more information about the program, visit <https://www.shepherd.edu/maci/>.

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	Daniel Sweeney '17 <i>Martinsburg</i>	Chris Wooten '87 <i>Fallston, Maryland</i>

## Shepherd's persistence prevails

**W**ith the close of the 2020-2021 academic year, I wish to express my profound gratitude to faculty and staff for their steadfast dedication, resiliency, and commitment to help our students succeed. It would have been easy to simply give up during an unprecedented pandemic, but Shepherd's faculty and staff persevered, and in so doing showed our students that regardless of life's challenges, we are here to help them pursue their dreams through education.

Shepherd's response to the pandemic was effective due to the hard work and diligence of the Campus Health Task Force led by **Holly Morgan**

**Frye '09 M.A.**, vice president for student affairs and task force chair. The group began its planning in January 2020, long before the pandemic became a nationwide reality. Teaming with academic leaders to devise innovative academic delivery systems for students and with the local Health Department and facilities staff to emphasize campus safety, the task force instituted safety protocols that led to the successful completion of the academic year.

Our continued social distancing, the availability of online and hybrid classes, and face covering requirements allowed us to finish the academic year by mitigating the spread of COVID-19. Equally noteworthy is the extensive array of Plexiglas separation screens across campus, created by Kay Dartt, manager of the FASTEnER Lab. Collectively, we reached a level of confidence in our ability to remain safe during the pandemic.

Vaccine clinics held at Shepherd's Wellness Center were a major effort to bring COVID-19 shots to our faculty, staff, and students who wished to receive them. Beginning in the last week of December 2020, the clinics, run by Shepherd personnel with shots administered by our Health Center nurses and nursing program students, continued through the end of the spring semester.

In early May, thanks to creative problem solving by **Dr. Jenny Flora '06 and '08 M.B.A.**, chair of the commencement committee, and the work of committee members and volunteers, Shepherd had its first in-person commencement—with face coverings and social distancing—since May 2019.

The modest class size of the master's and doctoral candidates allowed us to have a commencement ceremony in the Butcher Center with a limited number of family members in attendance. Baccalaureate students attended a convocation that was open to just the candidates. Grad walks, where the degree candidate and family members moved through the three host venues in socially distanced pods, allowed students to walk across the stage in full view of their family members. We invited last year's graduates, whose own ceremony was virtual due to COVID-19, to participate in a grad walk of their own.

Shepherd is beginning to celebrate the reopening of our campus. We plan to have administrative offices fully staffed by June 21 with the return of remote workers. We hope to host more on-campus, in-person events—and slowly but surely return to a more normal status.

I am very proud of our faculty and staff who pulled together during the pandemic, and I see a bright future for Shepherd because of their dedication, creativity, and hard work. ■



Dr. Mary J.C. Hendrix '74

Sam Levitan

## Aviation education offered through College of Business

Shepherd University, Bravo Flight Training, and the Eastern West Virginia Regional Airport (MRB) announced a partnership in March to bring aviation training and education to the Eastern Panhandle. Shepherd is offering the academic portion of the program through its College of Business, while Bravo will deliver the ground school aviation training classes and MRB will host the activities at the recently renovated airport facility.

Business administration students at Shepherd who take Bravo's ground school class may use the class for academic credit upon completion.

This is the first phase of an Aviation Program launch at Shepherd which the stakeholders have been planning over the past year.

"As we consider the growing needs of the aviation industry with respect to the shortage of pilots, airport managers, and technical experts, this partnership provides an opportunity for Shepherd's current and future students to receive training for an exciting career in aviation," said President Mary J.C. Hendrix. "We are grateful to be part of this significant partnership, which will contribute to the economic development of our region." ■

## School of Music named to top 100 Great Value Colleges

The School of Music is listed as one of the top 100 Great Value Colleges in the country for undergraduate music majors. Shepherd ranks 66 on the list, which was compiled by the Great Value editors from an initial pool of nearly 270 colleges and universities accredited by the National Association of Schools of Music with tuition expenses of less than \$25,000 per year.

According to Great Value Colleges, "When researching the best music schools in the country, many hopeful music majors are faced with the high tuition and low acceptance rates of major music conservatories like Juilliard without realizing that there are a plethora of accessible and cheap colleges with good music programs." ■

## Nursing students help with COVID-19 vaccine clinics

Senior nursing students have played a role in helping people in Berkeley and Morgan counties receive their COVID-19 tests and vaccines. Twenty-six students earned clinical hours helping administer the tests and vaccines in Martinsburg and Berkeley Springs, working with staff from the Berkeley and Morgan county health departments, Shepherd University Health Center, and Shenandoah Community Health. In addition, the students also helped with testing both at Shepherd and off campus.

“They were honored and proud to be part of these mass vaccination clinics,” said Dr. Barbara Spencer, clinical educator for the Population Health class. “They have learned a lot because they worked as outdoor greeters, navigators helping people through the system, registering patients, directing patients to their vaccine table, giving vaccinations, being scribes, and in the recovery area. So, they saw the whole process from beginning to end.”

Spencer said participating in the vaccine clinics showed the students that many agencies must work together to make massive undertakings such as vaccination clinics happen.

“I think it’s great experience and a great environment,” said Alexis Crook, who plans to work on a med surg stroke floor after graduation. “It’s amazing to be able to be a part of history. I find helping people get their COVID vaccines is super fulfilling as a future nurse.”

Sarah Grega plans to work at Berkeley Medical Center in the intensive care unit and believes participating in the vaccine clinics will benefit her in her career. She had several jobs at the clinics, including greeter, scribe, and vaccinator.

“I truly felt like I was able to make a difference,” Grega said. “I was able to be a part of the solution in the hope of seeing an end to this pandemic one day.”

Sydney Park plans to work at Meritus Medical Center in the recovery center after graduation. She served as a scribe and vaccinator at the clinics and went to high-rise senior housing to administer vaccines.

“It was really nice to be able to do that—to give back to the community,” Park said. “Everybody was so appreciative. They were just so thankful that they were finally able to receive the vaccine and there was some light at the end of the tunnel.”

Richard Martinez plans to begin his career at the Berkeley Medical Center med surg unit. The

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## Dr. Kelly Hart selected as enrollment VP

Dr. Kelly L. Hart was named vice president for enrollment management in November 2020. As vice president for enrollment management, Hart oversees the admissions, financial aid, and registrar’s offices. She works with Shepherd’s leadership team to establish and then meet targets for undergraduate, graduate, and working-adult enrollments, as well as increasing the number of residential and out-of-state students.

“We are thrilled to have Dr. Hart join the Shepherd team,” said President Mary J.C. Hendrix. “Her vision and experience in the recruitment and retention of students and commitment to diversity will assist Shepherd in advancing our enrollment. This is a transformative time in Shepherd’s history, and Dr. Hart will be a key stakeholder in our success.”



Dr. Kelly L. Hart

Hart served as the executive director of admission at Westfield State University in Massachusetts. She was associated with Westfield State since 2010, first serving as director of admission, then moving to the executive director position. She served on the President’s Administrative Council, planning and budget committee, and Title IX and Affirmative Action Appeals Board.

Prior positions include a nine-year period of employment at Springfield College in Massachusetts, where she served as assistant director of athletics (2001-2006), associate director of athletics (2006-2010), and assistant professor of sports management and recreation (2001-2005).

Hart earned a B.S. degree in secondary education, English, from Villanova University, an M.Ed. in physical education from the College of New Jersey, and a Ph.D. in physical education from Florida State University. ■

**RIGHT:** Senior nursing students who participated in regional COVID-19 testing clinics gather in front of Erma Ora Byrd Hall, which houses the School of Nursing.

Spring 2021

Cecelia Mason



# Army veterans find educational success at Shepherd

**R**etired **Sgt. 1st Class Debra Saunders '19** and retired **Staff Sgt. Osmund Anderson '20** are continuing their education in Shepherd's Master of Arts in College Student Development and Administration (CSDA) program. They credit Shepherd's accessibility services office with helping them succeed.

Saunders graduated in 2019 with a business administration degree and Anderson in 2020 with a degree in social work.

"We both were successful in completing our bachelor's degrees with the assistance of the accessibility office," said Saunders. "The accommodations awarded to us from that office granted us the opportunity to be on the same playing field as other students. They accommodate disabled veterans and all students who may need their services."

Anderson pointed out veterans often face difficulties reintegrating into civilian life, particularly with social integration and feeling a sense of belonging.

"While we bring unique abilities and experiences to a college campus, the challenge of integrating leads to playing down our identity as veterans in order to blend in better somewhere where we already feel out of place," Anderson said. "Being at Shepherd, we realized that we definitely did not have this. We felt a part of the Shepherd family because of the faculty and student population."

Shepherd is a Yellow Ribbon and West Virginia 5 Star Challenge school with a variety of services that support veterans and their families, including a veterans' support services office, dedicated assistance in the Registrar's Office, and a chapter of

Team River Runner. Currently there are about 160 veterans and dependents enrolled at Shepherd.

Both Saunders and Anderson grew up in Washington, D.C. Saunders served the Army in several stateside locations, including Fort Lee, Virginia, as well as Germany, Korea, and Southwest Asia. Anderson served at Fort Knox, Kentucky, Germany, Korea, and Southwest Asia. They each served two tours during Desert Storm and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"I was injured in Iraq and was sent to the Martinsburg VA Medical Center for treatment," Anderson said. "While in the program, I researched the area and found it was less expensive for me to reside in Martinsburg instead of Fort Washington, Maryland."

"I met Osmund, and he asked, 'how would you like to move to West Virginia?' and I responded, 'sure, I have nothing holding me here in Maryland,'" Saunders said.

Once they settled in the area, Anderson and Saunders decided to pursue first bachelor's and now master's degrees. Anderson is earning a CSDA M.A. and Saunders is earning a dual CSDA M.A./M.B.A. degree. They hope to help others find the college success they've had either by working at a college or opening their own business.

"During our military service, we had a saying that 'no soldier is left behind,'" Anderson said. "With that mindset, we believe no student should be left behind. So, we hope to support the students we work with by helping them gain confidence in their academic ability, adapt to college life, and become more independent.

Our goal is to work with students and help them grow as individuals."

"We look forward to encouraging and guiding students to find their way at Shepherd, giving every student an unforgettable experience," Saunders said.

■ **Cecelia Mason**



**LEFT:** U.S. Army veterans and Shepherd master's degree students Debra Saunders '19 and Osmund Anderson '20 pose at McMurran Hall.

## Rachael Meads '92 wins Appalachian Studies Association teaching excellence award

**R**achael Meads '92, assistant director of student engagement and adjunct Appalachian studies professor, has been awarded the 2021 Stephen L. Fisher Award for Excellence in Teaching for postsecondary teachers by the Appalachian Studies Association (ASA). The award honors individuals dedicated to intellectual rigor and pedagogical integrity in constructing and delivering inclusive knowledge about Appalachia and its people.

"As the daughter of two fantastic educators, I can think of few higher honors that one can receive than being called a transformative teacher," Meads said. "Great teachers have extraordinary powers to help others discover their own lifepaths, challenge us to think from new viewpoints, and to explore new materials and worlds."

Meads teaches classes in Appalachian Culture and Appalachian Music and Ethnomusicology in Shepherd's B.A., B.S., and M.A. in Appalachian studies.

"Rachael has tirelessly devoted her time and energy to Shepherd students and her work has enhanced Shepherd's Appalachian Studies Program," said Dr. Sylvia Bailey Shurbutt, director of Shepherd's Center for Appalachian Studies and Communities. "Rachael is a treasure, always supportive and encouraging to students, and her classes encourage students to contribute to West Virginia and to the region as they develop their own confidence and skills."

This is the second year in a row a Shepherd professor has been given the award. Shurbutt received it in 2020 but due to the COVID-19 pandemic, last year's conference was canceled. Shurbutt received her award during this year's ceremony, which was hosted by writers Silas House and Crystal Wilkinson, who praised Shepherd for its work, innovative programs, and achievements in the field of Appalachian studies.

"That teachers from Shepherd's Appalachian Studies Pro-



Cecelia Mason

Rachael Meads '92

gram have been recognized for excellence in teaching with the Fisher Award for two consecutive years speaks volumes about our program and Shepherd's commitment to student learning and our region," Meads said.

The Stephen L. Fisher Award for Excellence in Teaching was established in 2013 by the ASA Education Committee. In 2015 the award was named in honor of Stephen L. Fisher, professor of political science from 1971 to 2006 at Emory and Henry College, where he helped create an Appalachian studies minor, the Appalachian Center for Community Service, and an interdisciplinary service-learning major in public policy and community service. The award honors individuals dedicated to intellectual rigor and pedagogical integrity in constructing and delivering inclusive knowledge about Appalachia and its people. ■ *Cecelia Mason*

## Nursing students help with COVID-19 vaccine clinics

*(continued from page 5)*

retired U.S. Navy veteran served in Iraq and Afghanistan and views the battle against COVID-19 as essential.

"Being in the fight is what I like to do and to me it was great because I was finally able to get into this fight," Martinez said. "I always feel if you see something that's going on you almost have an obligation if you have the ability to jump in and I did."

Dr. Sharon Mailey, dean, College of Nursing, Education, and Health Sciences, and director, School of Nursing, pointed out that Shepherd nursing students are part of a large, com-

munity-wide effort to vaccinate as many people as possible so society can return to normal.

"As Vivian Greene tells us, 'Life isn't about waiting for the storm to pass. It's about learning to dance in the rain,'" Mailey said. "We're all in this together and together we're making a difference. We are proud of our nursing graduates, our students, and faculty as they are frontline heroes committed in the fight against this pandemic. Please do your part—get vaccinated, wear a mask, wash your hands, and social distance. Together we will make a bright tomorrow." ■ *Cecelia Mason*

# Class Notes

**'85** For the second year in a row, **William F. Fritts**, CPA, has been voted Best Accountant in the Tri-State area by Herald-Mail Media readers. He is member-in-charge of the Hagerstown, Maryland, office of SEK CPAs and Advisors and leads the accounting services and tax department. He provides accounting and tax services to a wide spectrum of businesses and individuals, as well as valuation services primarily for estates and buy-sell agreements. Bill has been a guest speaker on various tax topics and an instructor of numerous undergraduate and graduate-level business classes at Shenandoah University and Shepherd University. In addition to his client responsibilities, Bill serves as a member of the firm's management and tax committees.

**'92** **Erika Juran** has been selected as the executive director for the Pennsylvania Guild of Craftsmen (PGC), which operates a gallery and workshops in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. Erika has served in nonprofit arts leadership for more than 18 years in her roles throughout Pennsylvania.

**'93** **Kelly Rubeck Scudieri** had her painting *Gravity* chosen for the U.S. State Department's Art in Embassies program. It will be shown for a three-year period in the U.S. Embassy in Sri Lanka. She joins more than

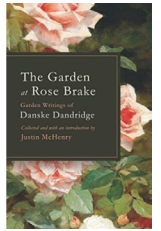
20,000 other artists who have shared their works with the program since its inception in 1953. Kelly describes the symbolism of *Gravity* as embodying the wisdom of when to fight and when to float—know the time to ground in power and the time to flow with the currents for insight and survival. Many of her pieces show elements of animal totems, and this is true with this piece as well. Jellyfish are featured as they are symbols of protection and caution through flow, faith, trust, and inner strength. Kelly's first show was in 1996 at a community-supported arts cooperative, The Epicenter, and her second in 2003 was held at the Entler Hotel in Shepherdstown, where she partnered with photographer Hali Taylor and sold all 22 of her pieces displayed. Many of Kelly's pieces are displayed in local Shepherdstown restaurants and shops.

**'95** **Kevin Howley** works for the World Food Programme (WFP), the Nobel Peace Prize recipient. The 2020 Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to the organization for its efforts to combat hunger, for its contribution to bettering conditions for peace in conflict-affected areas, and for acting as a driving force in efforts to prevent the use of hunger as a weapon of war and conflict. The World Food Programme is the world's largest humanitarian organization addressing hunger and promoting food security. In 2019, WFP provided assistance to close to 100 million people in 88 countries.

**'04** **Justin McHenry** collected and introduced the articles of

West Virginia poet and historian Caroline "Danske" Dandridge about the gardens of her country estate, located on the outskirts of Shepherdstown, in the book *The Garden at Rose Brake*.

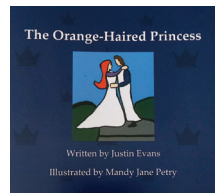
It is the first collection of Dandridge's garden writings that offers a glimpse into the life of one of West Virginia's most acclaimed writers. Justin, who earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in history, is a writer and historian and the archivist for American Public University System.



**'05** **Justin Evans** published his first children's book, *The*

*Orange-Haired Princess*, in June 2020.

The book is available on Amazon. He is the father of three daughters, Emily, Adalynn, and Jerrika. Justin and his wife Alicia welcomed Adalynn in 2018 and Jerrika in 2019. They were married June 20, 2015 at Duffey United Methodist Church in Moorefield.



**'07** **Ben Adducchio** published his first

novel, *The Shortage*. It is a science fiction/horror story. The novel is in print and is also available as an ebook on Amazon's website.



ABOVE: William Fritts '85, Erika Juran '92, and Kelly Rubeck Scudieri '93

**'09** Dr. Justin Arner has an orthopedic surgery practice at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center at Burke and Bradley Orthopedics. He graduated from University of Pittsburgh where he won the Outstanding Chief Resident Award. Justin is a sports medicine specialist focused on the surgical and nonsurgical management of knee, shoulder, elbow, and hip injuries. He pursued specialized training with a fellowship in sports medicine and shoulder surgery from the world-renowned Steadman Clinic in Vail, Colorado. Justin graduated from the West Virginia University School of Medicine with honors and is a member of the Alpha Omega Alpha Medical Honor Society. He has published more than 60 research papers and book chapters in scientific journals and given more than 80 presentations both nationally and internationally. He is the principal reviewer for the *American Journal of Sports Medicine* (AJSM), an editorial board member for *Arthroscopy Journal*, and a reviewer for the *Journal of Shoulder and Elbow Surgery* (JSES), *Sports Health*, *Foot & Ankle Specialist*, and *Physician and Sportsmedicine*.

**'10** Nasser Muhammed and wife Jazmin founded Lifting As We Climb, LLC, a black-owned educational consulting firm providing Anti-Bias Anti-Racism (ABAR) training and development services to schools across the country. The mission of the firm is to provide educational services to schools, students, and parents in a three-pronged

community approach which creates a hub of responsibility by providing professional development services, including tailored virtual professional development training, writing workshops, and skill development sessions.

**'11** Dr. Katherine O'Connell was named Neurology August Resident of the Month at Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine at Marshall University. Katherine was selected for her leadership style, teaching abilities, and professional and compassionate approach to caring for stroke patients, particularly in emergent settings. She will be one of three inaugural members of the neurology residency class to graduate in June 2021.

Bobby Humphries '11 is entering his fourth year as the head coach of the Governor Thomas Johnson Patriots, Frederick, Maryland. He has worked relentlessly to rebuild the entire Patriot football program. During summer 2020, he coached 7-on-7 and through that program was able to develop enough interest to field two teams for the 2020 season at the Frederick County school. Bobby has also developed a Schoology group to maintain relationships with his student-athletes, as well as facilitate their offseason and return play curriculum.

**'17** Tyler Kambis is a graduate research assistant at the University of Nebraska Medical Center in the Department of Genetics, Cell Biology, and Anatomy and a Ph.D. candidate

in the lab of Paras Mishra. Tyler has been recognized as a national first place recipient in The Science Coalition's Fund It Forward Student Video Challenge and placed second nationally in Research!America's flash talks competition. Other accomplishments include receiving a fundable score for the Ruth L. Kirschstein Pre-doctoral Individual National Research Service Award (an external graduate fellowship); serving on the Coalition Rx board of directors, Student Delegates co-president, and APS CV Training Committee; and presenting to the surgeon general.

**'20** Bailey Dillow, a Winchester, Virginia, Medical Center nurse, received the Gold Citizen of the Year award, presented by the Top of Virginia Regional Chamber, for her courage in an emergency situation. Bailey stopped at the scene of a motorcycle accident and immediately began providing first aid and comfort to the injured woman. Cited for her "extraordinary acts of courage in an emergency while performing exceptional tasks to save a life," she received the award during the eighth annual Valor Awards in November 2020. ■

## Rams Across America

Check out social media for more RAMS ACROSS AMERICA, which will feature a different region of the United States each quarter and tell the stories of alumni who live there.

Visit @ShepherdAlumni on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.



**ABOVE:** Dr. Justin Arner '09, Nasser Muhammed '10, Dr. Katherine O'Connell '11, and Bobby Humphries '11

# IN MEMORIAM

**Nancy Cohill Manuel '49**, of Clear Spring, Maryland, died July 9, 2020. Nancy received her bachelor's degree in secondary education from Shepherd and received a master's degree from Frostburg State University. Following her graduation from Shepherd, Nancy taught physical education and history at James Wood High School in Winchester, Virginia, and then returned to Washington County, Maryland, in 1952, where she taught physical education and coached girls' basketball and softball at Boonsboro High School until 1955. She took a 10-year hiatus from teaching to raise her two sons and care for her mother. She then returned to teaching in 1965 when she helped pioneer an elementary physical education program at Clear Spring, Salem Avenue, and Conococheague elementary schools. Afterward she became a guidance counselor at Washington Street School, now Western Heights Middle School, until her retirement in 1986. After retirement, Nancy became involved in community activities including the Hagerstown Garden Club and the board of directors of the Hagerstown Day Nursery, where she also served as president. She was preceded in death by her husband of 72 years, **James Ernest "Jack" Manuel '48**, whom she met while attending Shepherd.

**James W. "Jimmy" Poisal, Jr. '50**, of Hedgesville, died September 26, 2020. He graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in history. Jimmy served in the U.S. Navy from 1950-1954. After the death of his father, he took over the family business, Hedgesville Grocery, until its closing in 1984, and then began substitute teaching at Hedgesville High School and became a donor for the Hedgesville High School track and soccer complex, which is named Poisal Park in his honor.

**James D. "Jimmy" Link '52**, of Charles Town, died November 21, 2020. Jimmy joined the U.S. Navy in 1944 and was honorably discharged in 1946. He received his Bachelor of Science degree in chemistry from Shepherd and worked for the National Institutes of Health, later transferring to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, from which he retired in 1992. Jimmy was a partner in the family business B & L Children's Shop in Sterling, Virginia, from 1975-1979. He was a member of St. Thomas Lutheran Church.

**William Leonard "Bill" Manross '53**, of Dublin, Georgia, died October 23, 2020. He graduated from Shepherd with a degree in physical education. During his academic career he played football and was inducted in the first class of Shepherd's Athletic Hall of Fame in 1986. A U.S. Army veteran, he built his career as a physical therapist at the Carl Vinson VA Medical Center. In addition to his wife Susanne and children, he is survived by his brother **Ira D. Manross '60**.

**James L. Blackford, Sr. '56**, of Martinsburg, died December 2, 2020. He enlisted in the U.S. Army and served during the Korean War. After being honorably discharged, he earned his Bachelor of Science degree at Shepherd, attending classes during the day and driving a truck at night. Jim joined the 167th West Virginia Air National Guard as a computer programmer and later transferred to civil engineering, retiring as a master sergeant.

**Doyle Bolyard '57**, of New Philadelphia, Ohio, died September 18, 2020. He attended Shepherd on an athletic scholarship and lettered in three sports. Doyle was captain of the football team and lead pitcher for the baseball team his senior year. He served as a U.S. Army sergeant, representing Camp Lucas and traveling to Army bases to play in baseball and basketball tournaments. He earned a master's degree at Kent State University while serving as assistant baseball coach and as the radio commentator for the Golden Flashes basketball team. In addition to loving sports, he was an avid fisherman and hunter, enjoying trips to western states with family and friends.

**Sallye J. Heffle '57**, of Martinsburg, died November 15, 2020. She received her Bachelor of Arts from Shepherd and went on to make a career for herself in journalism, serving as the assistant women's editor and drama critic for *The Alexandria Gazette*. In 1961, she transitioned her career path to the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Services. Sallye served as a child welfare worker and then as supervisor of Children's Social Services, retiring in 1998. After retirement she volunteered with Habitat for Humanity of the Eastern Panhandle and C-Cap and played an active role in her church, St. Luke's United Methodist Church, where she served for more than 30 years as the outreach committee chair, co-chair, and public relations director.

**Gerald G. Holmes '57**, of Hagerstown, Maryland, died October 6, 2020. He received a Bachelor of Arts in education from Shepherd and a master's in education at Shippensburg University. He taught in Washington County, Maryland, public schools, finishing his teaching career as principal of Washington County Career Studies Center before retirement. Gerald was a U.S. Navy veteran who served during the Korean War. He was a member of the Retired Teachers Association and Clopper-Michael Post 10 American Legion. Gerald was a diehard Washington football and Baltimore Orioles fan.

**Richard G. "Dick" Tutwiler '58**, of Naples, Florida, died July 18, 2020. He was a veteran of the Korean War and served in the U.S. Air Force, receiving a Purple Heart for his injuries. He received his bachelor's degree in business management at Shepherd. Professionally, Dick built and sold a successful financial recruiting agency, Don Richard Associates, with his business partner, Don Grandi, in the Washington, D.C., area. They had

multiple offices along the mid-Atlantic seaboard and as far as Tampa, Florida. Dick loved adventure and traveled around the world. He also enjoyed golf, tennis, croquet, and fitness activities, as well as playing cards with his buddies. He was a 32-year founding golf member of the Wyndmere Country Club and was an avid Washington football and Nationals fan. He is survived by his wife of 40 years, Myra, siblings, children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

**Mildred L. “Milly” Wilson ’58**, of Lutherville, Maryland, died September 20, 2020. Milly, who received her Bachelor of Arts in secondary education from Shepherd, was a retired physical educator and department chair with the Baltimore County Public School System. Prior to retiring in 1990, she coordinated scores and standings for Baltimore County interscholastic athletics and was also active in the Maryland Public Secondary Schools Athletic Association. She was a member of the Orchard Hills Community Association and served on the board of directors as a district director and vice president of the association. Milly served on the Mildred H. Murray Scholarship Committee and was a member of Baltimore County Retired Personnel Association and Maryland State Athletic Directors Association. In 1998, Milly received the Maryland State Athletic Directors Association Distinguished Service Award for Baltimore County.

**Rosemarie Tutwiler Williams ’58**, of Greencastle, Pennsylvania, died November 1, 2020. She received a Bachelor of Arts in secondary education from Shepherd and later earned her master’s equivalency from McDaniel College in 1975. Rosemarie taught at Musselman High School and then was a physical education teacher at Williamsport, Maryland, High School for 33 years. She coached basketball, softball, and cross country—her cross country teams earned four consecutive Maryland state championships. She was an active member of the Williamsport Girls and Women in Sports Committee and was inducted into the Washington County Sports Hall of Fame in 2014.

**Dorothy V. Young Taylor ’59**, of Charles Town, died in July 2020. Dorothy attended Eagle Avenue Elementary School and Page Jackson High School at the time when schools were segregated. She enrolled in the historic institution, Storer College, for the teaching program and transferred to Shepherd after Storer closed its doors in 1955. She graduated from Shepherd with a Bachelor of Arts in elementary education. She began teaching in Clarke County, Virginia, at the Johnson Williams Elementary School before accepting another teaching job at her old elementary school, Eagle Avenue School. Once schools were integrated, she accepted a teaching position at the Wright Denny Elemen-

tary School and retired after 28 years of teaching. An avid reader, Dorothy loved traveling and cruising to the Virgin Islands. She was active in her church, Wainwright Baptist, and was one of the founding members of the Page Jackson High School Alumni Association. Dorothy is survived by her husband **James L. Taylor ’59** and two children.

**Joseph Howard “Joe” Racey, Sr. ’61**, of Winchester, Virginia, died October 12, 2020. He received his bachelor’s degree in chemistry from Shepherd. Joe was a chemical plant manager for Martin Marietta, and upon retirement moved back to Frederick County and enjoyed every aspect of his farm.

**Sarah E. “Sally” Holme Harris ’67**, of Venice, Florida, died August 3, 2020. She graduated from Shepherd with a degree in physical education. Sally was an avid sportswoman and loved to play and coach. Playing beach volleyball and teaching children how to swim in Ocean Grove were just some of the activities she enjoyed. She loved to participate in community activities, including running the clothing table at the community bazaar. In the second half of her career she taught special education and other special-needs children.

**Dr. James M. “Jim” Jones II ’68**, of Scottsdale, Arizona, died September 28, 2020. Jim graduated with a bachelor’s degree in biology. He was a member of Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity and played second base for the Shepherd baseball team. He was a veteran of the U.S. Army, honorably discharged in 1971. A hematologist/oncologist, he devoted his life to giving quality care and comfort to those seeking his services. He was a 1975 graduate of Thomas Jefferson University Medical College in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He trained at West Virginia University Medical Center, Hershey Medical Center, and University of Maryland Cancer Center. Over the span of his career, he was in private practice in Martinsburg, Harrisonburg, Virginia, and with Georgia Oncology, Atlanta. He then served as medical director for the Network for Medical Communications and Research.

**Walter Painter ’68**, of Charles Town, died October 9, 2020. He received a Bachelor of Arts in social studies and earned a master’s from West Virginia University in 1971. Walter taught at Martinsburg High School and Harpers Ferry Job Corps, was a counselor at James Rumsey Technical Institute, and was a teacher at the Washington County, Maryland, Board of Education GED program, before retiring in January 1997. He served 14 years with the U.S. Marine Corps and was a member of the West Virginia Adult and Vocational Association, National American Legion, and the National VFW Legion.

**Cheryl M. Hawkins ’70**, of Kearneysville, died October 4, 2020. She graduated with a bachelor’s degree in biology and earned a master’s degree in education administration and curriculum from Shenandoah University. She retired after 38 years from the Jefferson County Board of Education as a teacher and administrator.

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# Sue Mentzer-Blair '72 is named Outstanding Alumna of the Year

**W**hen Sue Mentzer-Blair '72, the 2020 Outstanding Alumna of the Year, first enrolled in Shepherd after graduating from Harpers Ferry High School, she intended to stay just two years then move on. Sue had applied to some larger schools, and to an all-female college that her father was impressed with, so Shepherd was a compromise between Sue and her father.

"I, of course, fell in love with Shepherd," Sue said. "My best friends today are women I lived with in Miller Hall. So, leaving after two years just never entered my mind."

Sue said she fell in love with Shepherd because it was small, offered a lot of personal attention, and prepared her well. Even though Sue's family was local, her parents never considered having her live at home. She believes living on campus is critical to college life.

"You can't treat college as just another year," Sue said. "I'm not very high on remote learning. You need to be on campus. You need to meet other people. You need to be forced to listen to their opinions and that causes you to grow."

As a student, Sue was involved in a variety of activities, including the Foreign Relations Club, Sigma Sigma Sigma sorority, and as a researcher for the Debate Team. She also worked for the student newspaper, *The Picket*, and the yearbook, the *Cohongoroota*, under journalism professor Henry Perry. Karl Wolf '70 was yearbook editor.

"I was Karl's right-hand woman and then when he graduated, I edited the yearbook," Sue said. "We were able to cover the Vietnam protest march with our little *Picket* ID cards. That's still a moment I remember—soldiers in gas masks and tanks lining the road in Washington, D.C., as young folks, and a lot of older folks too, protested."

Sue earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in language arts, which led to a successful career in public education, first as a teacher, then a high school counselor.

"When I was ready to graduate from Shepherd, you had to interview with three different counties," Sue said. "So, I picked places with unique names, such as Kanawha County, West Virginia, and Fauquier County, Virginia."

In December 1972, partway through her student teaching experience, Sue was offered a job in Kanawha County in the



Cecelia Mason

Sue Mentzer-Blair '72

English department at Nitro High School. She was able to finish her student teaching there while working.

"Without officially being finished, I was able to go there and start earning money and get real-life experience," Sue said. "They officially hired me at the end of that first semester, in mid-January. Where else would that happen? It's amazing to me."

Sue taught in Kanawha County for about five years while earning her master's in counseling from Marshall University. When she finished her master's, she was offered a counseling job in Jefferson County at Shepherdstown Junior High, eventually transferring to Jefferson High School. In 1988, Sue took

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# 2020 class of Finest Under 40 alumni honored

**R**ecipients of the Finest Under 40 alumni recognition awards were honored at a reception and ceremony, alongside the 2020 Outstanding Alumna, **Sue Mentzer-Blair '72**, in October 2020.

## MARY BETH GROUP '03

Wanting to give back and create change in her community of Jefferson County, Mary Beth Group majored in secondary education with a concentration in mathematics. She landed a teaching job upon graduation within the county, but she did not stop there. As she challenged students in the classroom, she also encouraged students on the court as a coach and athletic director. Still striving for more, she continued her education and became an administrator at Jefferson High School, her alma mater.

In addition, Mary Beth also continues to see the importance of giving back and staying connected with her Shepherd community. After all, she went to pre-school at Shepherd, worked at the Shepherd dining hall while in high school, played softball at Shepherd, and graduated from Shepherd. She even married a Shepherd alumnus and has two children who proudly sport their Shepherd spirit wear. Blue and gold runs through her veins. Mary Beth has volunteered with the Shepherd University Sports Information director, served as an Athletic Hall of Fame board member, and is a Shepherd University Athletic Club Board Member.

Community, family, and honor are not just words to her—they are the definition of the goals that define her life.

## TIFFANY LAWRENCE '04

A native of Shepherdstown, Tiffany Lawrence received a Bachelor of Science degree in political science and business administration from Shepherd in 2004, and also holds a Master of Business Administration degree from Shenandoah University and Doctorate in Executive Leadership from the University of Charleston.

She currently is a senior account executive for Orion Strategies and is the former vice president of membership and development at the Appalachian Trail Conservancy. Tiffany previously served as the director of resource development and marketing for United Way of the Eastern Panhandle, as well as the marketing and public relations manager for Hollywood Casino at Charles Town Races.

Tiffany served three terms as a delegate in the West Virginia Legislature, representing Jefferson County's 65th District from 2008 to 2014. During her tenure, she was the assistant majority whip and the chair of the Committee on Political Subdivisions.

She held the title of Miss West Virginia in 2006 and represented the Mountain State at the Miss America Competition

in January 2007. During her year of service as Miss West Virginia, she traveled more than 50,000 miles while speaking to more than 40,000 school children, civic organizations, and businesses while bringing attention to mental health issues and creating awareness about the power of positive self-esteem.

She has received numerous awards for her work in public and nonprofit service, including Shepherd University's Ikenberry Award for Distinguished Human Service, the State Journal's 40 Under 40 Award, and was named a West Virginia Wonder Woman by *WV Living Magazine*.

## MATTHEW LONG '07

Matthew Long, a multimedia artist and outdoor enthusiast currently living in Frederick, Maryland, earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in graphic design. As a sophomore, his designs were selected to brand the Potomac Arts Festival at the National Conservation Training Center in Shepherdstown and in his junior and senior years he served as the American Institute of Graphic Arts, Blue Ridge Chapter student president. Upon graduation, he was selected to receive the AIGA Student Scholarship Award. He later returned as the AIGA alumni representative. He worked with Shepherd's design department to help found the nationally recognized design competition, FLUX. He also had the pleasure of assisting with the design of the National Park Service's annual report in Harpers Ferry.

Matt was named the official artist of the 2020 National Cherry Blossom Festival. One artist from throughout the United States is selected each year to have his/her work grace the nation's capital during the spring across various pieces of merchandise, print collateral, and events. In 2019, he painted the official art car for the National Cherry Blossom Festival.

In 2018, Matt's design was selected for the Sheetz, Inc. truck fleet via the Sheetz Fleet Art Project. In 2014, Matt was awarded the title of the official poster artist for the Western Maryland Blues Festival. He was selected to sell work at the John Mayer Winter Tour in 2013 and was named the Downtown Frederick, Maryland, Holiday Art Contest Barbara Maghan People's Choice Award Winner of 2013. He was also selected as the official artist for the SurfAid Cup-Malibu, California, surf contest of 2013 for SurfAid International. Matt is a long-time supporter of the American Institute of Graphic Arts, Community Food Bank of New Jersey, Heartly House, Hurwitz Breast Cancer Fund, Hope of Life International, and Surfrider Foundation.

## HANNAH WILLIAMS-McNAMEE '11

Hannah Williams-McNamee earned a degree in English and currently works in Shepherd's Office of Student Success as a success coach. Hannah has a devotion to education, service

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# Finest Under 40

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innovation, and leadership—she embodies Shepherd’s mission.

During her time at Shepherd she was voted as Outstanding English major. From there, she earned a Master of Arts at American University and returned to Shepherd to teach first-year composition for several years, willing to go the extra mile and encourage and support her students while holding them to high standards and believing they had the potential to succeed.

Her current duties involve the Shepherd Success Academy, a program that works with first-year students who are particularly at risk of failing at college. As a success coach, through weekly meeting and specifically tailored instruction and mentoring, she helps vulnerable students understand what success means and how, using the resources Shepherd provides, they can achieve it. Coaches serve as a constant connection between students and the campus, and their top priority is providing the tools students need to feel empowered during their time at Shepherd and beyond. Hannah has excelled in the position, earning the respect of everyone she encounters on campus.

Hannah interacts with every office on campus, from Financial Aid to Residence Life to Athletics, building solid relationships along the way. Hannah has played a key role in writing grants that have brought \$90,000 to the program in the past year alone.

Hannah shows up, and she is relentless. When the pandemic made it impossible for her to see her students in person and the entire campus shifted to distance learning, she managed to keep her students on track and connected during one of the greatest challenges higher education has faced.

## JESSICA SALFIA ’12 M.A.

Jessica Salfia is a 2012 graduate the master’s degree in curriculum and instruction program. She is an English teacher for Berkeley County Schools at Springs Mills High School where she teaches Advanced Placement Language and Composition and Creative Writing and advises the Diversity Club and the literary and art magazine.

Jessica is the co-director and executive vice president of the West Virginia Council of Teachers of English and a teacher, writer, and activist. Her writing has appeared in the *Charleston-Gazette Mail*, *WV Living Magazine*’s blog, WVCTE Best Practices blog, and multiple volumes of Shepherd’s *Anthology of Appalachian Writers*. She was the winner of 2016 West Virginia Fiction Competition and recently had her poem, “Root-bound,” selected for the 2018-2019 Women of Appalachia Project. She is the co-editor of the book *55 Strong: Inside the West Virginia Teachers’ Strike*. In 2019, Jessica wrote a commentary piece for 100daysinappalachia.com about the West Virginia teachers’ strike titled “W.Va. Teacher: We Went on Strike

to Fight Retaliation, Not Reform.” Along with fellow teacher Karla Hillard, she has revitalized the West Virginia chapter of the National Council of Teachers of English.

Jessica has won awards for her excellence in teaching. She was honored three years 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.

Her use of the books by Shepherd’s Appalachian Heritage Writers-in-Residence improved her students’ success in their coursework, leading many of these high-achieving students to say that they would like to return to the state after their college education is completed.

## KEVIN PAWLAK ’14

Kevin Pawlak is a 2014 graduate of Shepherd with a bachelor’s degree in history. He currently serves as the director of education for the Mosby Heritage Area Association as well as a Certified Battlefield Guide at Antietam National Battlefield and Harpers Ferry National Historical Park. He is on the board of directors for the Shepherdstown Battlefield Preservation Association, the Save Historic Antietam Foundation, and the Friends of the Ball’s Bluff Battlefield. Kevin is the youngest National Park Service-certified Antietam Battlefield Guide. He is a regular contributor to the Emerging Civil War online blog and his own Antietam Brigades blog.

Kevin has written or co-written several books including *Voices of the Maryland Campaign* (Emerging Civil War Digital Shorts Book 5), *Turning Points of the American Civil War* (Engaging the Civil War), *Antietam National Battlefield* (Images of America), *To Hazard All: A Guide to the Maryland Campaign, 1862* (Emerging Civil War Series), and *Shepherdstown in the Civil War: One Vast Confederate Hospital* (Civil War Series).

Kevin has also made several appearances on the C-SPAN Network. He is a site manager for the Bristoe Station Battlefield Heritage Park with six videos in the C-SPAN Video Library; his first appearance was a 2017 speech as an author. In 2018, he posted three videos as the director for education in the Mosby Heritage Area Association. ■ **Katie Gordon**

### Nominations are open for the 2021-22 Outstanding Alumnus/a of the Year and the next young alumni class of Finest Under 40

Each year, nominations for these awards are voted on by the SUAA Board of Directors at their annual June meeting. The new recipients are honored during Homecoming weekend. Criteria and nomination forms can be found at [www.shepherd.edu/suaa/alumni-recognition-programs](http://www.shepherd.edu/suaa/alumni-recognition-programs).

## Sue Mentzer-Blair '72 named Outstanding Alumna

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a school counseling job in Frederick County, Maryland, retiring from there after spending 42 years in education.

"I have sent literally hundreds of students to Shepherd," Sue said. "Shepherd's great. It's just incredible. When I was in Kanawha County, I sent at least a half-dozen kids from there just because I believed it was important for kids to get out and see other parts of the state, and Shepherd was so incredibly affordable."

Sue's involvement with Shepherd has continued over the years. She serves on the Shepherd University Foundation, is a member of the Alumni Association, and a member of WISH (Women Investing in Shepherd).

Sue and her husband, William "Bill" Blair, also created the Mentzer Award for Inspirational Teaching to honor a full-time professor recognized by Shepherd students for being particularly inspiring and having a profound effect on students. The award is

a way to honor Sue's brother, Dr. John Thomas "Tom" Mentzer, who died in 2010 and taught at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville where he received a similar award, and her mother, who died in 2014. A portion of each of their estates was used to create this recognition through the Shepherd University Foundation.

"It just seemed like a small way that we could recognize a professor and give them a little extra money," Sue said. "I wanted it to be student-driven."

This is the fifth year the Mentzer Award for Inspirational Teaching has been awarded. Students nominate professors each year. Past awardees include Dr. Timothy Nixon, professor of English; Dr. Stephanie Slocum-Schaffer, associate professor of political science; Dr. Geri Crawley-Woods, professor emerita of social work; and Dr. Benjamin Bankhurst, assistant professor of history.

Sue said over the years she has been stunned that so few graduates give back to the university and that has motivated her to stay involved.

"If you want things to be better, you have to be involved," she said. "You have to write a letter or write a check. It is definitely my nature to try and right whatever wrongs I think exist."

■ *Cecelia Mason*

## IN MEMORIAM

*(continued from page 11)*

**William Jacob "Jake" Conrad '71**, of Fort Seybert, died July 10, 2020. He graduated from Shepherd with a degree in social studies education. He retired from teaching at Franklin High School. Prior to attending Shepherd, Jake served two years in the U.S. Army as a military policeman. He is survived by his wife, Carol, and two daughters, alumnae **Rebecca Conrad '11** and **Christy Conrad '11**.

**Robin Kay Silveous '85**, of Kearneysville, died September 3, 2020. She graduated with a bachelor's degree in business administration and worked as the horseman's bookkeeper at the Charles Town Racetrack for 34 years. Robin was an avid horseman and animal lover, a loving wife, mother, and grandmother, and she loved hosting family get-togethers.

**Carl P. Stickley '89**, of Middletown, Virginia, died on July 6, 2020. He retired as a master sergeant after 20 years with the 167th Air National Guard, Martinsburg (Aerovac). He also worked at Capital Cement of Martinsburg and taught in the Berkeley County School System.

**Joseph Jonathan "Joe" or "Hi-Joe" Kelsey III '92**, of The Villages, Florida, died in fall 2020. He bought his first business, an ARCO gas station in Connecticut, after attending college in California. He later decided to become a farmer and moved his family to Clearbrook, Virginia, to raise cattle. Joe, who never abandoned his dream of becoming a high school history teacher,

completed his teaching degree at Shepherd and taught for many years in the Winchester, Virginia, school system.

**Paul W. "Bill" Eisenhart '10**, of Kearneysville, died October 17, 2020. Bill served in the U.S. Army during Vietnam where he was presented the Joint Service Commendation Medal. He was also awarded the Bronze Star, two Army Commendation Medals, one with the First Oak Leaf Cluster, and was given the rank of E-5. He received his R.B.A. from Shepherd. Paul was also a member of the Izaak Walton League of America-Jefferson County Chapter. He retired from Raytheon Corporation as a defense contractor. He is survived by his wife of 51 years, **Brenda K. Willingham Eisenhart '73**. ■

### Emeritus Club celebration is virtual this year due to pandemic

The 65th annual Emeritus Club induction ceremony, traditionally held in May during Commencement week, was not held in person in 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. There is a video available for emeriti and the public to view in lieu of the luncheon and induction ceremony.

This year marks the 50th anniversary year of the Class of 1971, whose members received their certificates in the mail. The Emeritus Club is for all alumni who have reached their 50-year graduation anniversary and beyond.

The Class of 1971 video is available at <https://www.shepherd.edu/emeritus-induction/>.

# *Weddings, Anniversaries, and Engagements*



**RIGHT, OPPOSITE PAGE:** Alicia and Justin Evans '05 were married June 20, 2015 at Duffey United Methodist Church in Moorefield.

**LEFT:** Naim Muhammed '17 and Hailey Brown '17 were married Friday, September 18, 2020, in Frederick, Maryland. Naim and Hailey were both athletes during their time at Shepherd University. Naim played on the men's basketball team and Hailey played on the women's basketball team.

**BELOW:** Jacob Neterer '18 and Kelsey Emery '17 were engaged on September 8, 2018. Jacob proposed in the Constitution Gardens in Washington, D.C. The couple was married on Saturday, July 27, 2019, at First Christian Church in Hagerstown, Maryland, with their reception following at The Barn at Springfield Farm in Williamsport, Maryland. Jacob and Kelsey met through Greek Life at Shepherd. Jacob is a Lambda Chi Alpha alumnus and Kelsey is a Tri Sigma alumna. The couple resides in Falling Water.





**ABOVE:** Betty Jane Hott '78 and husband George Hott '57 celebrated 70 years of marriage on November 6, 2020. The couple eloped in Luray, Virginia, before George entered the armed forces in 1950. George was co-captain of the undefeated 1955 West Virginia Conference championship football team at Shepherd.

**LEFT:** Chuck Gaines '18 and Bailey Dillow '20 became engaged April 18, 2020. The couple met at Shepherd University in an economics class. Chuck is an ABA therapist at the Arc of Loudoun, Leesburg, Virginia, and Bailey is a telemetry nurse at Winchester, Virginia, Medical Center.

### Shepherd's 150th anniversary to include PCI Oral History Project

The Shepherd University Foundation is partnering with PCI for Shepherd University's 150th celebration in 2021-2022. PCI will begin the process of reaching out for stories and experiences from Shepherd alumni. More information will be coming via mail and email for this initiative. Please call 304-876-5157 with any questions regarding the PCI project.

# Our Ram Family



**Samson Flora**

Jennifer Flora '06 and '08 and husband Rodney Flora '18 welcomed a son, Samson, on May 5, 2019.

## featuring Shepherd's youngest Rams



**Jacob West**

Claire West '13 and '17 and husband Dan West '13 welcomed a son, Jacob, on October 10, 2019.



**Emory Rey Ybarra  
Licado**

Lindy Ybarra Licado '11 and husband Matthew welcomed a daughter, Emory Rey Ybarra Licado, on June 26, 2020.

## Roaming Rams

### Painted Canyons of the West - September 2021

The Roaming Rams alumni travel program is offering its first domestic travel trip, Painted Canyons of the West, September 13. The nine-day trip, which will feature Utah's five national parks, includes 11 meals (7 breakfasts, 1 lunch, and 3 dinners). Highlights include Colorado National Monument, Moab, Arches National Park, Canyonlands National Park, Dead Horse Point State Park, Utah's Scenic Byway, Capitol Reef National Park, Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, Bryce Canyon National Park, Zion National Park, and Las Vegas.

Rates: Single Occupancy: \$4,499, Double: \$3,599, Triple: \$3,549

### Sunny Portugal - May 2022

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Sunny Portugal trip has been rescheduled for May 2022. More information will be available at the Roaming Rams Travel Program webpage <https://www.shepherd.edu/suaa/roaming-rams-alumni-travel-program> and on social media.

For additional information, contact Katie Gordon at 304-876-5524 or email [kswayne@shepherd.edu](mailto:kswayne@shepherd.edu).



**The Matschat family**

Lyndsey Leatherman Matschat '06 and husband Robert welcomed a son, Mark Eugene, on June 13, 2020, joining brothers Luke and Ethan. Mark Eugene is named after his maternal grandfather, Lynn Eugene Leatherman '92.

## Women's basketball team goes 2-0 in shortened season

The women's basketball team recorded a 2-0 mark in an abbreviated season due to COVID-19. The Rams posted wins at home over Southern Virginia (86-61) and Christopher Newport (83-72).

Senior guard Marley McLaughlin led the team in scoring (24.0 ppg). She was followed by sophomore guard Abby Beeman (19.0 ppg), and senior forward Sydney Clayton (18.0 ppg).

Beeman topped the team in rebounding (7.0 rpg). Clayton added a 6.0 average.

Beeman also led the team in assists (10.0 apg), while McLaughlin paced the team in steals (2.5 spg). ■

## Women's golf team makes debut

The women's golf team made its debut March 22-23 at the Barton Intercollegiate in Wilson, North Carolina. The women finished sixth in their first match.

Freshman Alexis Parrotte, of Hagerstown, Maryland, led the team with a 176 to place 30th. She was followed by freshman Amanda Deener, of Middletown, Maryland (181, T-34th), freshman Olivia Rosnick, of Purcellville, Virginia (217, 40th), freshman Ciara Scafide of Knoxville, Maryland (277, 43rd), and senior Serafina Maerten, of Martinsburg (287, 44th). The women improved their first-round score by 14 strokes in the second round. ■

## Cross country teams compete for the first time since 2003

The Shepherd men's and women's cross country teams competed for the first time since 2003. Head coach Chuck Walters led a roster of four for the men and five for the women.

The Rams competed in three meets, including the PSAC Championships.

Members of the men's squad include junior Hunter Reed, of Martinsburg, sophomore Daniel Burton, of Hedgesville, sophomore Michael Gregg, of Harpers Ferry, and sophomore Steven Rivera, of Kearneysville.

Members of the women's team include junior Mahayana Garcia, of Shepherdstown, junior Nicole Smith, of Inwood, sophomore Anna Berwanger, of Martinsburg, sophomore Amelia Jenkins, of Martinsburg, and freshman Elizabeth Rea, of Eldersburg, Maryland. ■



Bill Smith/Shippensburg University

Hunter Reed



Andrew Snyder/Liberty University

Abby Beeman

## PSAC institutes abbreviated 2021 spring athletic season

After suspending all mandated conference athletic events and championships during the fall 2020 semester in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Board of Directors of the Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference announced a return to competition guidelines and scheduling concepts for spring 2021. PSAC adopted the requirement that each of its member institutions will follow the NCAA Guidelines according to the NCAA Sport Science Institute regarding returning to play amidst the COVID-19 pandemic.

With the safety and well-being of the student-athletes, coaches, and athletic personnel being the focus of the conference, the league required ongoing COVID-19 surveillance testing using NCAA guidelines. Shepherd fielded teams in men's and women's cross country, men's and women's golf, softball, baseball, men's and women's tennis, and women's lacrosse, with football, volleyball, men's soccer, women's soccer, and men's and women's basketball participating in games, scrimmages, or exhibition games.

# Foundation announces 15 new scholarship awards

Privately funded awards created through the Shepherd University Foundation provide vital support for student scholarships, academic programs, and faculty excellence. This year the Foundation is pleased to announce 15 new awards. To learn more about these awards and the heartfelt stories behind them, please visit [shepherduniversityfoundation.org](http://shepherduniversityfoundation.org). For more information about creating a named fund, please contact Monica Lingenfelter at 304-876-5397 or [mlingenf@shepherd.edu](mailto:mlingenf@shepherd.edu).

## Laurie Cohen Scholarship

The LAURIE COHEN SCHOLARSHIP is designated for Shepherd students pursuing studies in the College of Business, specifically economics and finance and business administration. This annually funded award was established by Laurie Cohen, an adjunct economics and finance professor at Shepherd University.



Laurie Cohen

## Tiffany E. Lawrence, D.E.L. Scholarship

The TIFFANY E. LAWRENCE, D.E.L. SCHOLARSHIP is designated for incoming freshmen from Jefferson County who are pursuing a major in the College of Business. This annually funded award was established by Tiffany Lawrence '04, who graduated from Shepherd with a double major in business administration and political science.



Tiffany Lawrence '04

## Berkeley County Superintendent of Schools' Education Scholarship

The BERKELEY COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS' EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP is designated for graduates of Berkeley County Schools majoring in K-12 education at Shepherd University. This annually funded award was established by Dr. Patrick K. Murphy, who joined Berkeley County Schools as superintendent of schools in September 2019.



Patrick K. Murphy, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Berkeley County Schools

## Appalachian Studies and Communities Endowment

The APPALACHIAN STUDIES AND COMMUNITIES ENDOWMENT is designated as program support for Appalachian studies programming and community outreach in the region. This endowed program award was established by an anonymous donor.

## Phil Porterfield Women's Volleyball Program Scholarship

The PHIL PORTERFIELD WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL PROGRAM SCHOLARSHIP is designated for student-athletes participating in the women's volleyball program at Shepherd University.

This annually funded award was established by Phil Porterfield of Charles Town, who serves as the official scorer for the Shepherd University women's volleyball team.



LEFT: Phil Porterfield



Cecelia Mason

Dr. Sylvia Bailey Shurbutt  
Director of Appalachian Studies



**ABOVE:** Fincham family members are (l. to r.) son Chris Fincham and daughter-in-law J.J. Fincham; the late Ed Fincham; Sophia Fincham; daughter-in-law Amy Fincham; and son Andrew Fincham.

## David “Ed” Fincham Scholarship for Physical Education and Athletics

The DAVID “ED” FINCHAM SCHOLARSHIP FOR PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND ATHLETICS is designated for students pursuing studies in the areas of physical education, teaching, recreation and sports, health promotion and exercise sciences, and coaching at Shepherd. This endowed scholarship was created by Sophia Arvon Fincham and her sons, **Chris Fincham '95** and **Andrew Fincham '00**, in memory of her husband and their father, David Fincham. Coach Fincham served Shepherd athletics as an assistant football coach, as well as head coach for the university's golf and women's basketball programs.



**ABOVE:** David Avella '93, GOPAC chair and Board of Governors member, and President Mary J.C. Hendrix

## GOPAC Education Fund Scholarship

The GOPAC EDUCATION FUND SCHOLARSHIP is designated for political science majors at Shepherd University who are pursuing a concentration in political communications. This annually funded award was created by the GOPAC Education Fund, a nonprofit organization affiliated with GOPAC, based in Washington, D.C. Recipients are selected by a scholarship committee established through the Bill and Bonnie Stubblefield Institute for Civil Political Communications.

## Tina Maria Morris Dramatic Arts Scholarship

The TINA MARIA MORRIS DRAMATIC ARTS SCHOLARSHIP is designated for sophomores, juniors, and seniors pursuing studies in the area of contemporary theater as a major or minor and are actively involved in campus theater productions at Shepherd University. This deferred scholarship was established by **Tina Maria Morris '83**, who was involved in every stage production at Shepherd during her time as a student.



**ABOVE:** Opal D. Morris

## Opal D. Morris Nursing Scholarship

The OPAL D. MORRIS NURSING SCHOLARSHIP is designated for nursing majors at Shepherd University. This deferred scholarship was established by **Tina Maria Morris '83** in memory of her mother, who served her country as a nurse during World War II.



ABOVE: Norval G. Johnston '57 and Patricia "Pat" Johnston

## Dow Benedict and Rhonda Smith Endowment for Art and Theater

The DOW BENEDICT AND RHONDA SMITH ENDOWMENT FOR ART AND THEATER is designated as program support for the College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences at Shepherd. This endowed fund was established by various contributors in honor of two retired faculty members: Dow Benedict, former dean of the School of Arts and Humanities, and Rhonda Smith, former chair of the Department of Contemporary Art and Theater.

## Stanley Manne Last Dollar Fund

The STANLEY MANNE LAST DOLLAR FUND is designated to assist deserving students who are experiencing high financial need and limited financial resources, allowing them to stay in school and eventually graduate. The award was established through a donation from the Manne Family Foundation, a Chicago-based private independent organization founded by Stanley Manne, a retired business executive. There is an opportunity for Shepherd to reapply annually for continued funding.

## Patricia Ann Johnston Memorial Scholarship

The PATRICIA ANN JOHNSTON MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP is designated for Shepherd University nursing students. This endowed scholarship was established by **Norval G. Johnston '57** in memory of his wife, a registered nurse and retired professor of surgical and medical nursing.

## JoAnn Vincent Scholarship

The JOANN VINCENT SCHOLARSHIP is designated for elementary education majors at Shepherd. This endowed scholarship was established through an estate gift from **JoAnn Vincent '59**, a beloved and influential teacher with Berkeley County Schools, who died in 2016.



ABOVE: Rhonda Smith and L. Dow Benedict

## Alumni Story Collection: PCI Oral History

Your Shepherd University Alumni Association is once again partnering with PCI on the Oral History Project, an alumni story collection initiative that will run in conjunction with Shepherd's 150th anniversary celebration. You may have already received postcards and emails from PCI. Please reply and share your Shepherd story as part of this oral history project. Be a part of the living history of Shepherd today!

**Shepherd**  
UNIVERSITY  
• Alumni Association •



Cecelia Mason

**ABOVE:** Rob and Mary Logan Hoxton

## Hoxton Endowed Lectureship for Financial Planning

The HOXTON ENDOWED LECTURESHIP FOR FINANCIAL PLANNING is designated as a discretionary development fund in support of faculty within the College of Business specializing in the financial planning program geared to providing a CFP® qualified education. This endowment was created by Rob and Mary Logan Hoxton, who also provided an additional gift of first-year seed money to create the Center for Financial Education at Shepherd University. The center will serve to develop curriculum and activities, raise money for scholarships, conduct research, and offer financial planning education to the community.



**ABOVE:** Liz and Chris Giese

## Liz and Chris Giese Women's Golf Program Scholarship

The LIZ AND CHRIS GIESE WOMEN'S GOLF PROGRAM SCHOLARSHIP is designated for student-athletes participating in the women's golf program at Shepherd University. This annually funded award was created by Chris and Liz Giese of Harpers Ferry, who are both avid golfers and advocates for women's golf program opportunities.

## SHEPHERD UNIVERSITY 2021 Day of Giving Final Numbers



**DONATIONS**  
\$88,337

**DONORS**  
419

### LEADERBOARD BY DONORS

[Athletics- SUAC](#) 63 donors

[Accounting Club](#) 22 donors

[Sigma Tau Delta](#) 21 donors

[Library General Fund](#) 17 donors

[Department of History](#) 16 donors

### DONOR AFFILIATIONS

56% Alumni  
22% Faculty & Staff  
18% University Friends  
9% Parents  
4% Students

**24** STATES  
REPRESENTED  
BY DONORS  
and the District of Columbia

**43** ONLINE  
ADVOCATES AND  
CHALLENGES

**91** CAMPUS FUNDS  
IMPACTED



# *Giving the gift of music*

Every year, graduates of Shepherd's School of Music take the instruction they've been given out into the world and use it to make and teach music in communities near and far. It is this ability to share in music that makes it a true gift that keeps on giving. In 2017 Shepherd launched the All-Steinway Campaign with the goal of investing in 28 new Steinway & Sons pianos. Doing so will ensure 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.

With an estimated life span of 60 to 100 years, each gift of a Steinway piano will create a legacy of excellence as it benefits Shepherd students for generations to come. Read the stories about two couples who chose to give the gift of music.

## **Erdem I. Ergin and Joan Ergin**

Dr. Erdem I. Ergin and his wife, Joan Ergin, both grew up in musical households with an emphasis on the piano. Required by his father to take mandolin lessons, Erdem admits he was drawn more to the piano.

"My sister took piano lessons and I would sit and listen to her play and practice on my own afterwards," he said.

Growing up in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Joan and her brother also took piano lessons and often attended the city's cultural events with their parents.

"I grew up with music," said Joan. "The orchestra in Pittsburgh was quite good and we always had season tickets, plus we generally had music playing at home—usually classical or jazz. It was just always a big part of my life."

"We've both had an attachment to pianos and piano playing for a long time," said Erdem.

Shepherd holds a special place in Erdem Ergin's heart, having previously served as an adjunct math professor for six years. A former engineer with TRW, Inc., Erdem knew he wanted to retire to a small university town with various cultural opportunities, and Shepherdstown perfectly fit the bill.

The couple believes that music is an integral aspect of any culture and feels the School of Music has cultivated a genuine interest in it among the local community.

"That's somewhat atypical of a small town and I think it's a gift," said Erdem, who wished to express his appreciation to Shepherd University and the School of Music. After consulting with the Shepherd University Foundation, he chose to purchase a Steinway-designed Boston upright in Joan's name.

"I wanted to do something for Joan that was kind of unusual," said Erdem. "This was a perfect fit."

The gift was presented to the School of Music at a virtual presentation on December 6, 2020. The event, which may be found on the School of Music's YouTube channel, included two other Steinway-made pianos gifted by the Foundation and the President's Club and featured performances by School of Music faculty.

Joan was touched by her husband's gesture.

"I loved the idea," she said. "I was really tickled. It was delightful."

## **Ted Walton and Jeff Stead**

Dr. Jeffrey Stead and Dr. Ted Walton moved to Shepherdstown in 2008 and quickly became immersed in the community and its culture. The couple purchased the former Cavalier farmhouse, a historic property (c. 1840) featuring a remodeled and enlarged log cabin and a guesthouse from the Civil War era. Jeff has since become active in tournament bridge and both are members of Shepherdstown Area Independent Living (SAIL), part of the village-to-village network founded in 2012 to help keep people in their homes as long as possible; Ted is a founding member of the organization.

The couple also became involved in the Shepherd community. They are both members of the Wellness Center and share an active interest in the School of Music and its programs. Ted is a longtime member of the Masterworks Chorale, the Eastern Panhandle's premiere vocal ensemble made up of Shepherd University vocal students and members from the surrounding community.

"We've always loved music," said Ted, noting that the couple's involvement in Shepherd's music programs led them to take an interest in the All-Steinway Campaign. In 2018, they chose to support the endeavor with the gift of a Steinway-designed Boston upright piano.

"This is where we live now and this is where we plan to retire," said Jeff, professor emeritus of pathology at WVU and retired laboratory medical director at WVU Medical Centers in Berkeley and Jefferson counties, where he currently works part-time as a staff pathologist. "Shepherd is part of the community, and we want to be part of that community as well." ■

## **Create a musical legacy at Shepherd University!**

Steinway-designed pianos may be gifted through a single donation or pledge donations up to five years. Naming opportunities exist to honor or memorialize loved ones. To learn more about investing in the future of Shepherd University Music through a gift to support the All-Steinway Campaign, please visit <https://shepherd.edu/steinway/> or contact Christine Meyer at 304-876-5526 or [cmeyer@shepherd.edu](mailto:cmeyer@shepherd.edu).



Erdem I. Ergin and Joan Ergin



Ted Walton and Jeff Stead

## Virtual presentations open the door to wider audiences for Foundation events

As the world at large adapted to guidelines surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic, much of the Shepherd community chose to transition its campus events to a virtual format with extraordinary success. What at first seemed potentially restrictive in nature ultimately yielded many positive benefits. Events that were once available only to the local community were opened to a wider geographic audience, allowing even more people to come together to be educated and inspired by the opportunities Shepherd offers. Following are some of the events held throughout the past year whose virtual formats resulted in a renewed sense of energy and engagement.

### Scarborough Art and Lecture Series

The Scarborough Society's annual Scarborough Art and Lecture Series transitioned to an all-virtual format for its 2021-2022 season, kicking off in October 2020 with a presentation on the art of storytelling by local musician and master storyteller Adam Booth. This was followed in December by a holiday-themed discussion of the Dickens classic *A Christmas Carol* led by Shepherd English professor, Dr. Heidi Hanrahan. Both events proved to be fun and engaging for all, each attracting more than 50 alumni and friends nationwide. Sponsored by the Shepherd University Foundation, the Scarborough Art and Lecture Series is free and open to the public, though many participants chose to make gifts to support the Scarborough Society, Shepherd's Friends of the Library organization, as part of their online registration. Both events may be viewed in their entirety on the Shepherd University YouTube channel.

### Women for Shepherd University

In November 2020, more than 40 alumnae and friends joined Anthony Hess of Flowers Unlimited for a virtual holiday floral arrangement demonstration hosted by Women for Shepherd University through the Shepherd University Foundation. Hess and his associate offered attendees a step-by-step tutorial on how to create a beautiful and unique holiday centerpiece, with participants following along at home with pre-purchased supplies. It was a festive occasion that put everyone into the holiday spirit.

### All-Steinway Campaign Virtual Piano Presentation

The School of Music celebrated the addition of three new Steinway pianos on December 6, 2020, with a virtual concert on the pianos. The event included performances by music faculty, including Dr. Yu-Hsuan Liao, director of keyboard studies, the late Dr. Scott Beard, provost, and Dr. Laura Renninger, former dean, Center for Teaching and Learning, as well as students Korinne Myers, a music performance major from Martinsburg, and Sianna King, a music education and music performance major from New Market, Maryland. The concert may be viewed on the School of Music's YouTube channel. See page 24 for more on Shepherd's endeavor to become an All-Steinway school. ■



Christine Meyer

## Foundation names Christine Meyer director of annual giving

The Shepherd University Foundation is pleased to welcome Christine Meyer as its new director of annual giving.

Christine joined the Shepherd family in January, having previously served as director of advancement for Randolph-Macon Academy in Front Royal, Virginia. She has more than 15 years of experience in marketing, development, and advancement in both the nonprofit and private sectors.

In her role as director of annual giving, Christine manages The Shepherd Fund, which provides sustaining support for virtually every aspect of the Shepherd University experience, as well as the President's Club, which helps ensure the future of Shepherd University through annual unrestricted gifts of \$1,000 or more.

If you are interested in making a gift to either of these areas, or have questions for Christine regarding Shepherd's annual giving programs, please contact her at 304-876-5526 or [cmeyer@shepherd.edu](mailto:cmeyer@shepherd.edu). ■



**P**lanning for Shepherd University's sesquicentennial is well underway! Join us for this momentous occasion as we celebrate 150 years of Shepherd since its founding in 1871.

**Highlights include:**

- Special events to be held throughout the 2021-2022 academic year.
- Three key major events include a kickoff celebration in the fall, a special 60th anniversary celebration of the Shepherd University Foundation, and a campus closeout party with a time capsule burial in spring 2022.
- Academic showcases and galleries, departmental events, and open houses featured throughout the year!

The Alumni Association is again working with PCI on an Oral History Project collecting alumni stories to be compiled into a living history book of our Ram Family!

Visit Shepherd's sesquicentennial webpage <https://www.shepherd.edu/150th> and Shepherd University social media for full details and dates of all special events!

**Make your plans to be part of the celebration!**



## Shepherd University Magazine

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