

A group photograph of the Shepherd University women's basketball team. Eleven players are posed in two rows on a basketball court. The back row consists of six players standing, and the front row consists of five players in a low three-point stance. They are all wearing dark blue jerseys with white accents and the word "SHEPHERD" across the chest. The background shows the gymnasium's bleachers and a blue banner that reads "FROM THE CLASS OF 1990".

Shepherd

UNIVERSITY

Magazine

**WOMEN'S
BASKETBALL:**
Celebrating 50 years

Wendy Bianca Keller was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters by Shepherd President Mary J.C. Hendrix prior to addressing students during the 149th Undergraduate Commencement ceremony on May 7, 2022.



SHEPHERD UNIVERSITY

149th Commencement

Shepherd's 149th Commencement took place on May 7, 2022. Graduate students and their families took part in a ceremony where speaker Dr. James Cherry '96, associate director/chief of research technologies at the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease at the National Institutes of Health and member of Shepherd's Board of Governors, spoke and students received their degrees. Undergraduate students attended a convocation where Wendy Bianca Keller, an alternate on the 1980 U.S. Field Hockey Olympic Squad, addressed the students. Family members were invited to watch the convocation on a livestream in the Frank Arts Center Theater.



Scan here to see more photos or visit:
[flickr.com/photos/shepherdu/albums/](https://www.flickr.com/photos/shepherdu/albums/)

Wendy Bianca Keller addresses students during the 149th Undergraduate Commencement ceremony on May 7, 2022.

Dr. James Cherry '96 was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Science by Shepherd President Mary J.C. Hendrix prior to addressing students during the 149th Graduate Commencement ceremony on May 7, 2022.

As podcasts take the media world by storm, Shepherd University students, professors, and alumni are making their mark in one of the fastest growing industries.

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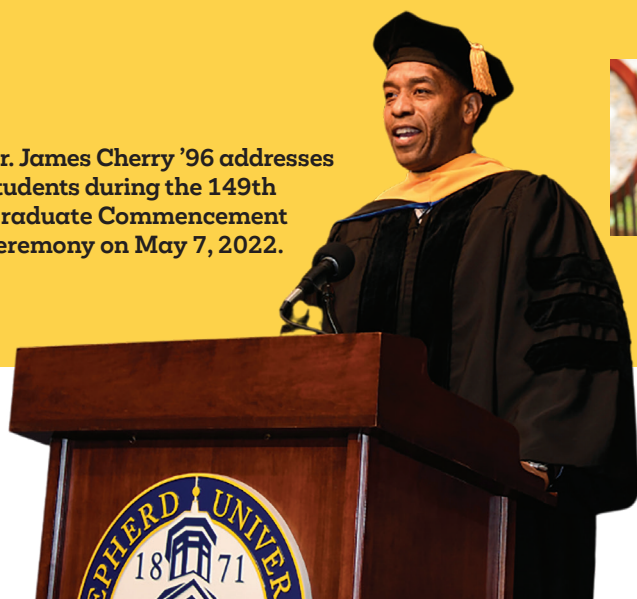
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**Editorial Director
& Managing Editor**
Dana Costa

Designer
Tory Orr '20

Contributors this issue
Jessica Gill, Katie Swayne '12,
Cecelia Mason, Christine Meyer,
Dr. Sylvia Bailey Shurbutt,
Meg Patterson, Chip Ransom '86,
Kristi Veach-Ross, Linda Staub '74,
Sydney Clayton '22

Cover photo
The 2022-2023 team is celebrating a half century of women's intercollegiate basketball at Shepherd and hopes to continue the success of last year's 50th anniversary team.
photo credit:
Kayla Agentowitz, Assistant Coach

PRESIDENT'S LETTER



We are back in full swing and “hitting it out of the park” on many wonderful initiatives!

I am delighted to share with you that Shepherd University students, faculty, and staff have emerged from the pandemic ready for action and engaged in a multitude of noteworthy activities, as you will enjoy reading about in this Fall magazine.

Let's start with acknowledging the University's 8 percent increase in total student enrollment compared with this time last year. This statistic defies the national trend, and early predictions for Fall 2023 enrollment suggest a continued increase. Our students and their families recognize Shepherd's track record in providing an excellent education, supportive academic services, and a safe campus environment. As we train the next generation of leaders and model citizens, we are most fortunate to have excellent role models at the University, complemented by distinguished visitors as lecturers and conference moderators.

In this issue, you will see how we honor the past—by celebrating 60 years of the Shepherd University Foundation and 50 years of women's basketball—while recognizing the present accomplishments of our students and alumni across a variety of new horizons in unique market niches. You will also see how we are pushing the frontiers of technology with the establishment of a Center of Excellence for Photobiomodulation, offering state-of-the-art light therapy for reducing pain and inflammation, facilitating tissue repair, and treating conditions related to long COVID-19 symptoms.

We continue to rely on the kindness and generosity of our alumni and friends as quintessential donors who invest in our mission. Your support ensures that today's students have every opportunity to become tomorrow's leaders. I am very proud of what we have accomplished together and am excited to lead the next phase of success. Thank you for all your efforts on behalf of our students.

Recent graduate **DIGITIZES HISTORIC BUILDING PLANS**

BY CECELIA MASON



“I knew that Knutti used to have a really interesting interior. You can still see the pressed tin ceiling tiles if you look up in the air vents in some places.”

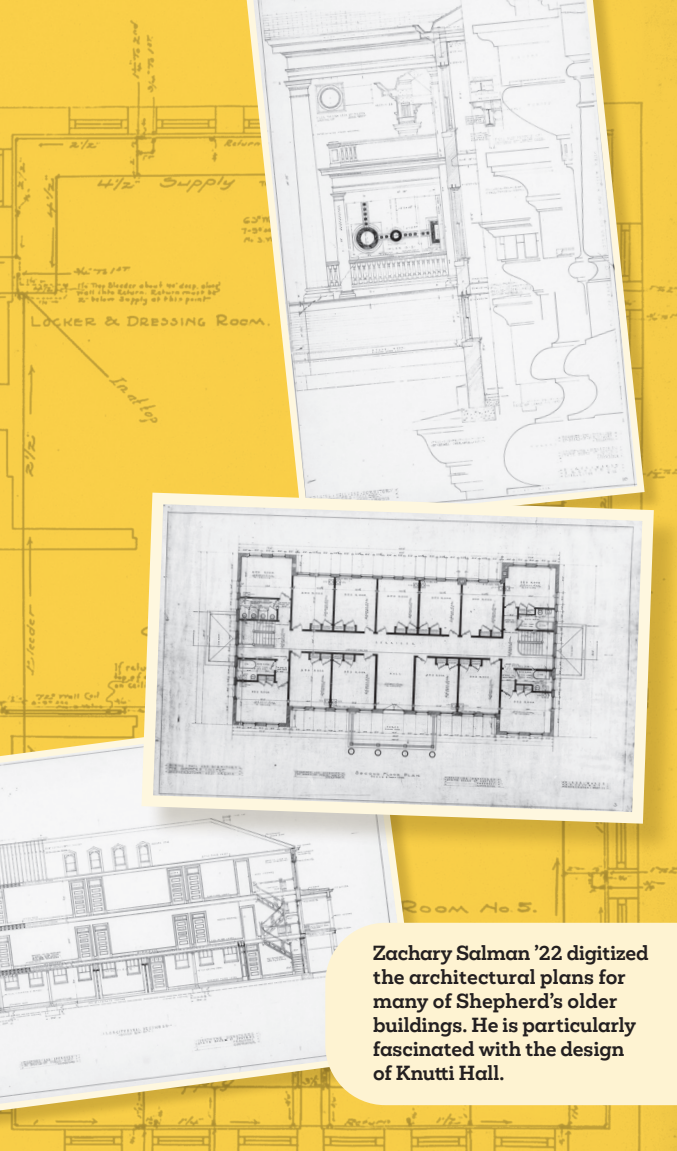
As Shepherd’s student population grew throughout the 20th century, the University constructed new buildings to make room for classes, student activities, and administrative functions. Thanks to the efforts of 2022 graduate Zachary Salman, the architectural plans for buildings constructed between 1900 and 1968 are digitized, making them more accessible to everyone.

“I was curious about the history of some of the older buildings on campus, especially Miller and Knutti halls because they’ve been renovated heavily,” Zachary said. “I knew that Knutti used to have a really interesting interior. You can still see the pressed tin ceiling tiles if you look up in the air vents in some places.”

Out of curiosity, Zachary wanted to see what information he could find about the older buildings on campus, so he

went to the library. He and Frances Marshall, the archivist, found a box labeled “building plans.”

Zachary thinks the architectural drawings of Knutti Hall are particularly fascinating. Built in 1902, Knutti replaced the Normal Building, which served as Shepherd’s main classroom facility from 1897-1901 when it burned. Knutti was designed by Harrison Albright, whose most famous work is the National Historic Landmark West Baden

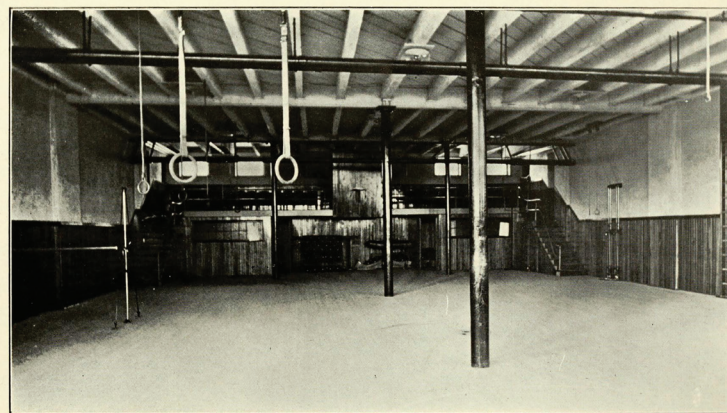


Zachary Salman '22 digitized the architectural plans for many of Shepherd's older buildings. He is particularly fascinated with the design of Knutti Hall.

Springs Hotel in Indiana. Zachary said for its time, Knutti was a state-of-the art building.

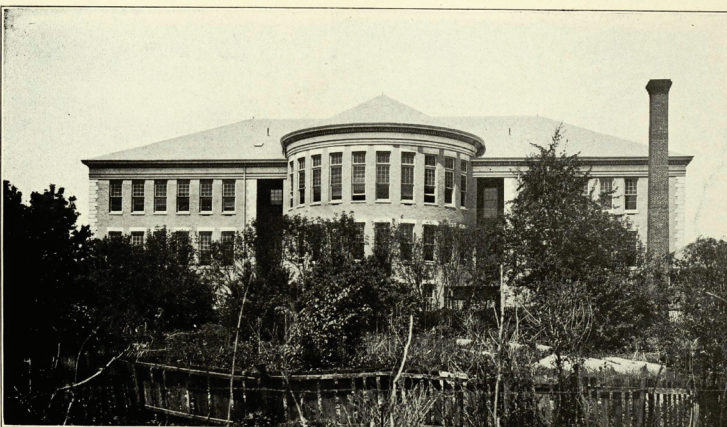
"It had a lot of bathrooms with indoor plumbing, it had electricity, it had central steam heating. The boiler was located in the building that is still out back," Zachary said. "It had offices, a lot of classrooms, and a library. Where the history department offices are currently there was a big open reading chapel. This had 12-foot ceilings or higher, and I imagine it was incredible to be in the reading chapel with all the sunlight streaming in from the windows with the library right there."

There was a gym and changing rooms in the lower-level basement where the Department of Communication is currently located. The building also had a principal's office and two science labs. Zachary said Knutti had incredible finishes such as solid wood flooring, beautiful beadboard paneling on the walls, a stamped tin ceiling, and classic schoolhouse light fixtures.



THE GYMNASIUM

The view of the gym inside Knutti Hall (circa 1908).



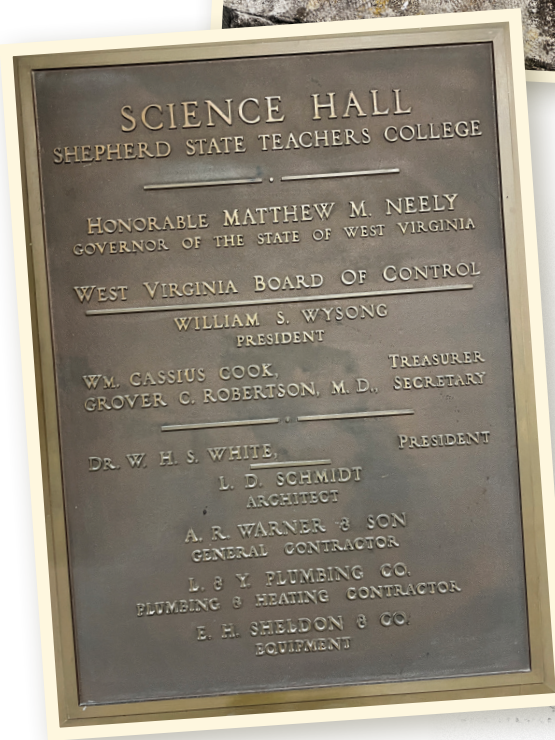
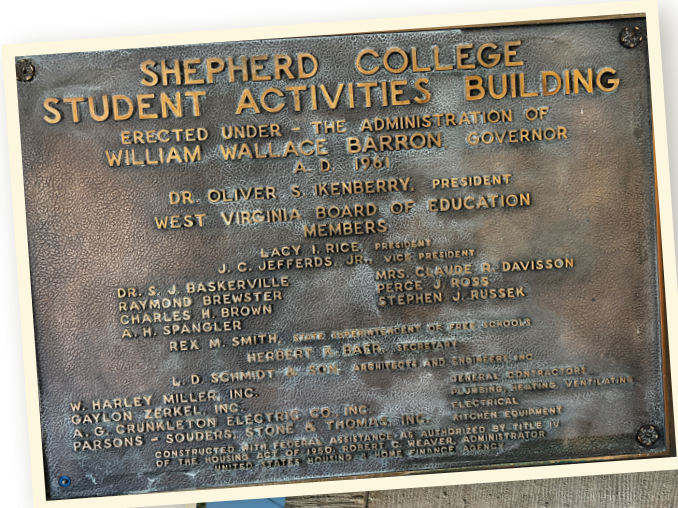
THE NEW BUILDING—REAR VIEW

The outside back of Knutti Hall (circa 1908).



THE LIBRARY.

In the early 1900s, Knutti Hall housed the library, which was adjacent to a large, sunny reading room.



“Knowing that these are spaces that I wouldn’t be able to experience myself was important for forming my views of preserving history because there’s nothing quite like being in the space. That’s why we preserve historic buildings.”

“Knutti Hall when it was built was actually quite a bit of a revelation,” Zachary said. “Other institutions in West Virginia wanted to copy it and asked for similar buildings because it turned out to be such a great education building.”

Two of the other older East Campus buildings were designed by architect L.D. Schmidt of Fairmont, West Virginia—the Student Center and Snyder Hall. The Ruth Scarborough Library, Ikenberry Hall, and Stutzman-Slonaker Hall were designed by architect Robert J. Bennett of Morgantown, West Virginia. Zachary points out that Snyder is quite a bit different looking than many of the other yellow brick buildings on East Campus because it was constructed in 1941 during WWII.



"The later buildings like the Student Center that are from the 60s and 70s reflect a more modern type of construction with concrete block and steel that wasn't as common at the time that Snyder was built," he said. "One of the things that architecture history can show us is how building methods and craftsmanship changed over time. You can see two of these buildings that were designed by the same person reflect such different techniques."

The digitized plans include several buildings that no longer exist, such as the original home for the University's president, called the President's Cottage; Boetler Hall, a men's dormitory; and Sara Cree Hall, a physical education building. Boetler and Sara Cree were both built in the early 1950s and stood near Ram Stadium and Erma Ora Byrd Hall. They were designed by Nay & Shaw Architects of Wheeling, West Virginia.

"These are buildings that were more strikingly mid-century modern than everything else we have on campus," Zachary said. "A lot of what's on campus from the 50s through the 70s is colonial revival. These two buildings were a departure from what's considered the normal style of Shepherdstown, but were very

reflective of that era and wanting to modernize."

Zachary hopes by digitizing the plans, they can be posted online so they will be more accessible, teach about the University's history, and help with any restoration of the remaining buildings.

Zachary grew up in Berkeley Springs, West Virginia, a health spa resort town where many historically significant buildings have been lost. That sparked his interest in historic preservation.

"Knowing that these are spaces that I wouldn't be able to experience myself was important for forming my views of preserving history because there's nothing quite like being in the space," he said. "You can look at pictures, but nothing compares to being in the actual space. That's why we preserve historic buildings."

While earning his B.S. in history at Shepherd, he worked at Grove and Dall'Olio Architects of Winchester, Virginia, where in 2021 he helped with a resurvey of the Berkeley Springs historic district and the digitalization of that material. Zachary is currently working on a Master of Science in historic preservation at the University of Vermont. ■



EMERITUS CLUB INDUCTION

Three classes were recognized at the 2022 Emeritus Club induction, the first since 2019 because of the pandemic.



Pictured from the class of 1970 are (seated, l. to r.) Mary Jane Russell, Chris Silvester Rannels, and Lynn Fisher Little, standing, Karl Wolf, Mary Kirk, Raymond Snyder, and Gailand Hartman.



Pictured from the class of 1971 are (seated, l. to r.) Barby McDonald Frankenberry, Judith Beitzel Childs, and Beverly Skinner Hughes, standing, Carolyn Nelson Kerr, Georgia Ann Farmer Vogan, and Reiné Farmer Lambert.



Pictured from the class of 1972 are (seated, l. to r.) Bob Frankenberry, Terry Hardy, and Mary Ann Robertson, standing, Andy Burgess, William Wilbur Lind, Rick Jewell, Bob Jensenius, and David Hartman.

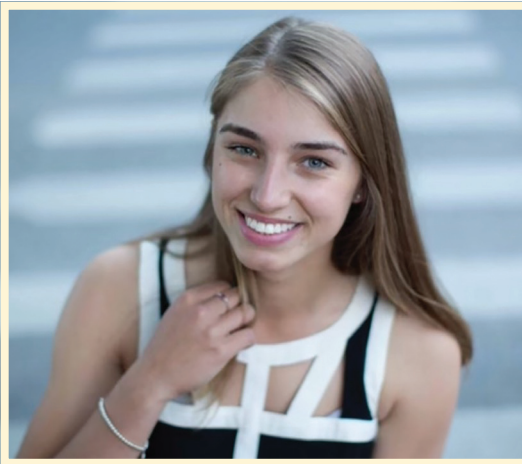
BEYOND THE MICROPHONE:

THE RISE OF PODCASTS

BY MEG PATTERSON

As podcasts take the media world by storm, Shepherd University students, professors, and alumni are making their mark in one of the fastest growing industries.

When Serafina Maerten '21 was pondering what to do for her senior capstone project, she decided to highlight the Shepherd University women's golf team through a four-episode podcast. Serafina's series told the story of the program's inaugural competition season through interviews with head coach Chuck Ingram, Shepherd University Vice President for Athletics, Chauncey Winbush, other team members, and Cress Creek Women's Golf Association donors and supporters.



Serafina Maerten '21, who played both women's soccer and golf while at Shepherd, is currently pursuing her masters at West Virginia University in data marketing communications.

Although there were many ways Serafina could have approached her final project, she ultimately chose the seemingly "it" journalism medium of the moment.

"I think so many of us chose to do podcasts because it gave so much flexibility and creativity, but yet a concrete final project that showed off what we were capable of," said Serafina, who graduated with a B.A. in communications. "I was able to bring a lot of aspects from my undergrad work into my final project, including my time spent as a student-athlete and my internship at a radio station."

Serafina is just one of several communication students who have gone the podcast route the last few years. The popularity of the medium in both an academic setting and in the broader cultural spectrum has skyrocketed over the last decade.

THE RAPID RISE OF PODCASTS

According to data compiled by Wired, Apple kick-started the podcasting industry in 2005 by adding 3,000 shows to iTunes. Today, Workforcepods reports that the medium has reached over two million unique shows and over 125 million listeners annually. In a June 2021 article shared by Buzz Sprout, it was reported that the industry continues to boom alongside the development and evolution of

smartphones, smart speakers (Amazon Alexa, Google Home, etc.), and in-dash entertainment systems. Buzz Sprout reported in 2022 that 62 percent of the population aged 12+ has listened to a podcast and roughly 79 percent are familiar with the medium.

Like everything else during the past few years, COVID-19 has played a significant part in the evolution of the podcast genre. During the pandemic's onset, podcast downloads initially declined 10 percent as shutdowns affected all aspects of public consumption and business. However, Burrelles reported that the pandemic ultimately accelerated the natural rise of podcast listening to unprecedented growth as people stopped commuting

and consumerism moved almost solely online. According to a report by the IAB and PricewaterhouseCoopers, podcast ad revenue now stands at \$1.4 billion, a 72 percent increase from 2020, and is expected to hit more than \$4 billion by 2024.

Higher education institutions like Shepherd have been no strangers to the podcast boom. Majors such as marketing and communications have begun to incorporate the medium in coursework. Cecelia Mason, Shepherd University Communications staff writer and adjunct professor, includes a podcast assignment as part of her News Practicum class. In addition, Shepherd communications professor Matthew Kushin has

incorporated a podcast assignment as part of his Communication and New Media course. This class gives students an introduction to the audio journalism world through the creation of a four-to-five-minute podcast on societal issues related to journalism, radio, podcasting, or the music industry.

"Production is not very sophisticated for this assignment," said Matthew who noted that the department utilizes Audacity, a free and open-source digital audio editor and recording application software. "Students record using whatever audio equipment they have access to, such as their computers or smartphones."

This accessibility to content creation contributes greatly to podcast popularity. University departments that may not have extra funding for special equipment can incorporate podcasts into curriculum without worrying about budget issues. Likewise, podcasts can thrive in a limited environment because they don't necessarily require studio space or advanced recording devices.

"Everybody has a podcast now because you can do a voice memo on your phone and upload that to SoundCloud or a similar platform," said Bianca Ison '20, who currently hosts the "Voices from Appalachia Radio Show" podcast through the University radio station, WSHC. "Pretty much, if you have a phone or computer, you can do a podcast anywhere. Technology has allowed us that convenience."

Paola Torres '20 was first introduced to podcasting during Cecelia's News Practicum class and echoed Bianca and Serafina's sentiments on the freedom and flexibility that the medium allows.

"For students with any interest in radio,

"Students get to express themselves vocally and perhaps find an intellectual voice that is both academic and personal."

Bianca Ison sits in an on-campus studio while interviewing guests.



sound, or recording, a podcast is an incredibly versatile and exciting project,” said Paola, who currently serves as an academic advising assistant at Shepherd while pursuing her master’s in college student development and administration. “Students get to express themselves vocally and perhaps find an intellectual voice that is both academic and personal.”

THE IMPACT OF PODCASTS ON EDUCATION

The crossover of personal and academic is heavily apparent at Shepherd University. Ison, who began at Shepherd as a non-traditional student, now has “podcast host” of two educational programs on her resume. In addition to the “Voices from Appalachia Radio Show,” Bianca was tapped to host a podcast at the Bonnie and Bill Stubblefield Institute for Civil Political Communications at Shepherd University. “Upstream, Downstream,” created in Fall 2021, features discussions with prominent experts on important political and policy issues.

“Freedom, versatility, and the hands-on factor are huge reason why students will continue to gravitate toward creating podcasts.”

“WSHC General Manager Mike McGough asked me three times to apply for the host position,” said Bianca, who also currently serves as the director of operations at Shepherd’s on-campus radio station and folkways project coordinator at West Virginia Public Broadcasting. “I said ‘No, I don’t want to do it. I’m not all that interested in politics,’ but eventually I caved. And I ended up hosting for almost two years.”

Appalachian studies and civics/political studies are just two of the University departments that are utilizing podcasts to disseminate information to students and the general public. Biology professor Dr. Sher Hendrickson-Lambert has incorporated a podcast storyboard as part of her Biology 103/104 courses

and is planning on offering a podcast assignment for her ornithology students. Likewise, theater department chair kb saine has hosted the “black theatre history podcast” since 2017. This program presents the voices and stories of Black artists to her theater students who may find auditory learning more resonant over using traditional resources such as textbooks for source material. The Podcast Host reported that, in fact, many learning institutions are cutting back on textbooks and investing in technology-enhanced learning. Similar to saine’s thought process, The Podcast Host reasoned that the medium provides the portability, flexibility, and engagement that others may not.

To capitalize on the high success rate of tech-based learning, podcasts could be utilized even further at Shepherd to distribute educational content and engage future and current students.

“I think that easy-to-find, short, and sweet podcasts that feature actual student anecdotes, stories, and tips

would be beneficial,” said Paola. “Incoming students, and even some continuing education students, who are struggling to feel connected are often inundated with information that, while important, is not always immediately relatable. Short, student-led podcast episodes highlighting different aspects of campus life and college success could be a wonderful tool.”



kb saine’s “black theatre history podcast” has been featured on notable audio platforms, including Broadway On Demand.

PODCASTS AND THE FUTURE

With an inundation of podcasts into mainstream journalism, entertainment, and education, it begs the question: Will the market eventually become oversaturated and lose resonance? For those at Shepherd who have entered into that world, the answer seems to be a resounding “no.”

“I don’t necessarily think that it can be oversaturated,” said Bianca. “It might if a lot of people are doing the exact same sort of content. But because it is so niche, you can find shows that are unique.”

Paola agrees.

“The range of potential podcast topics is infinite and entirely up to the interests and interpretation of the creator,” said Paola. “Freedom, versatility, and the hands-on factor are huge reasons why students will continue to gravitate toward creating podcasts.” ■



To donate to the Campus Technology Fund, visit ShepherdUniversityFoundation.org/donate/ Select “Other,” and type in “Campus Technology.” You may also contact Christine Meyer, Director of Annual Giving, at 304-876-5526 or cmeyer@shepherd.edu.

Shepherd Alumni IN THE PROFESSIONAL PODCAST WORLD

While the place of podcasts at Shepherd University continues to develop and find its footing, there are already alumni making their mark in the industry.

RADIO HOSTS TURNED PODCASTERS

Ryan Stickel '20 and Dylan Bishop '20 parlayed a student sports talk show through WSHC, Shepherd's radio station, into independent podcast "Highly Disputed," which discusses the latest happenings in the sports world—at Shepherd and nationally.

Ryan, a Martinsburg, West Virginia, native, was originally unsure what sort of communications branch he wanted to pursue, while Dylan, a Berkeley Springs, West Virginia, native, knew he wanted to go into sport broadcasting or media. Eventually their paths crossed while working at WSHC. The pair both agreed that working in radio is a fantastic gateway to the podcast world.

"Being on the radio and podcasting are kind of the same thing, except for some limitation differences," said Ryan. "Getting behind the microphone can help make you a better podcaster because you need to sound good even if you're not in front of people."

In addition to getting experience in an auditory journalism environment, working at WSHC also gives students access to more sophisticated equipment than just a personal cell phone or computer.

"There is a computer in the radio station where you can open up Audacity and hit record," said Dylan. "The way we do our show, it's basically just a podcast. We don't take commercial or music breaks."

Ryan agreed with his co-host on the perks afforded to future podcasters through the station, while also noting that the student newspaper The Picket offers microphones for student use as well.

"There is an auxiliary studio at WSHC that is made specifically for recording. Nothing in there can go on the air," said Ryan. "They use it for recording promos and commercials, so we have also been able to use it for our podcast."

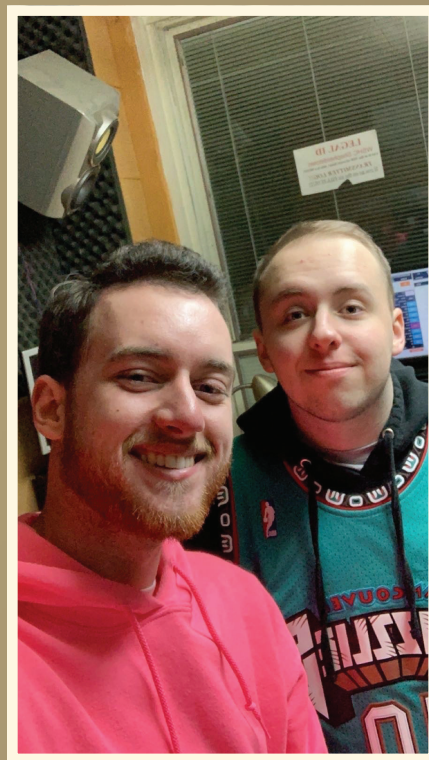
Regardless of what background podcasters are bringing with them, the importance of having a unique focus will go a long way in seeing success.

"Talk show/discussion formatted podcasts usually only work if the personality is a big name," said Ryan. "The rest of us are just kind of 'find your lane' and get good at it. There are only so many places to go for Shepherd sports talk, and half of them are going to be newspapers and television broadcasts that are very restrained. Our show is how you would talk to your friends about Shepherd sports. That's something we have tried to corner the market on."

Now that technology has advanced to the point where anyone and everyone can have a podcast, the question remains: Is it a good or bad thing for consumers?

"I think that popular culture has become so niche and fragmented because a lot of

people like a lot of different things," said Dylan. "There is room for people to get into a space like podcasting, and while it might become crowded, it gives the opportunity for people to find what they like and find shows that are just for them. The less options there are, the more media has to try to cater to everyone, and that will ultimately fall flat in today's world."



Ryan Stickel '20 (left) and Dylan Bishop '20 (right) preparing content for their "Highly Disputed" sports broadcast.

FROM NANCY GRACE TO "DOWN THE HILL"

When Andrew Iden '03, a mass communications graduate originally from Front Royal, Virginia, first started at Shepherd, he probably never envisioned

“When I left Nancy to work as a freelancer in a few different places, I always had a foot back in the true crime universe. What that experience did for me was make me realize how passionate people are about this genre.”

a career path so entwined with true crime. Following his graduation, Andrew accepted an entry-level position at CNN, headquartered in Atlanta, Georgia. This quickly became a springboard to production for shows like “Nancy Grace” at CNN’s sister station HLN, a move that would ultimately influence his globally successful true crime podcast “Down the Hill: the Delphi Murders,” which has millions of downloads to date.

Although Andrew always had a fascination with news and journalism, his passion originally focused on sports broadcasting and media. In 2005, a phone call from a friend regarding a show with former prosecutor Nancy Grace led him into true crime content.

“I did some long-form documentary work, but then I also learned how to navigate the world of crime and legal and courts and criminal justice,” said Andrew, who worked on the show during high profile cases such as the Casey Anthony and Jodi Arias trials. “When I left Nancy to work as a freelancer in a few different places, I always had a foot back in the true crime universe. What that experience did for me was make me realize how passionate people are about this genre.”

In 2017, Andrew decided to break from the heaviness of crime and start his first podcast featuring stories of people who hiked the Appalachian Trail. Like “Wild,” which highlighted the life events that propelled Cheryl Strayed’s journey on the Pacific Crest Trail, “the 2180” podcast put the stories of Appalachian

Trail hikers under a microscope.

“The concept was originally going to be a video series,” said Andrew, who had the idea from growing up near the trail in Virginia. “I ultimately decided to transfer to an audio format for a more intimate setting. At the end of the day, it wasn’t about the hike. It was just the vehicle for people to tell their personal story.”

Despite the departure in subject matter, Andrew ultimately returned to the true crime genre when he created and co-hosted “Down the Hill,” which explores the mysterious murder of two girls in Delphi, Indiana. His experience with research and long form documentaries lent itself perfectly for the project, which has resonated with millions worldwide.

“I knew there was going to be an audience for it because I knew there was an audience for true crime,” said Andrew. “It’s always good to know what your audience wants when you are making content.”

Andrew hit the nail on the head when choosing his subject matter. As Chartable reported in 2020, true crime podcasts ranked number one on American, Canadian, and global charts, and four out of ten podcasts on American Spotify were of the true crime genre.

Although both podcasts seem quite different on the surface, the two share a common thread of intimate storytelling.

“Podcasts bring out the theater of the mind and allow the listener to shape the stories themselves,” said Andrew, who surmised that other forms of media like



Andrew Iden '03 currently works as an Atlanta-based writer and content producer for CNN/HLN.

television and print newspaper lose that same intimacy.

Despite his 20-year career in professional journalism, Andrew admits he is still fairly new to the podcast world. His personal philosophy on continuing to find success and grow in the audio space also rings soundly for new graduates or other hopeful podcast professionals.

“If you want to work in audio journalism, consume as much and listen to as much as you possibly can,” said Andrew, who explores new podcasts all the time to shape his own work. “Everything that you listen to can be a study guide on what to do or what not to do. Even if it’s not conscious, you will pick up methods for when it’s your turn.” ■

Foundation celebrates 60 years and \$1 million gift to the Shepherd College of Business

BY **Kristi Veach-Ross**

Photo credit: Sam Levitan Photography

Mike Smith addresses the crowd at the Shepherd University Foundation's 60th Anniversary Celebration.

The Shepherd University Foundation celebrated its 60th anniversary with a special night of generosity and memories. As more than 100 alumni, faculty, staff, and community members gathered to celebrate over a half century of the Foundation's service to Shepherd, former Foundation President Mike Smith '89 elevated the festivities with the announcement of a \$1 million gift.

Smith's extraordinary donation will support the College of Business. In 2016, Mike, along with former Foundation President Ray Alvarez '62, was instrumental in creating the Business 2020 fundraising campaign to revitalize the University's business program. Mike's latest contribution will help to continue the success of that program.

The celebration also honored the retirement of Foundation Executive Vice President Monica Lingenfelter, who retired on September 30.

Monica has led many of the Foundation's triumphs. She has dedicated countless hours to ensuring that the Foundation provides consistent and reliable support for the University, and her compassion and dedication has been apparent in her work. Mike acknowledged the impact of Monica's direction and determination throughout her time with the Foundation as he dedicated his gift to her career milestone.

"This level of success was achieved by many individuals—including many of you here—working together to further the mission of the Foundation," Ray said at the

celebration. "However, at the forefront of this effort has been our retiring vice president."

Mike reflected on the Foundation's momentous strides over the decades and asked guests to consider how far the Foundation has come since its creation.

The evening's speakers represented decades of the Foundation's history. In addition to remarks by Mike, Ray, and current Foundation President Chris Colbert '95, the program featured remarks by Shepherd President Mary J.C. Hendrix '74 and Dr. Carol Ann Durand '64.

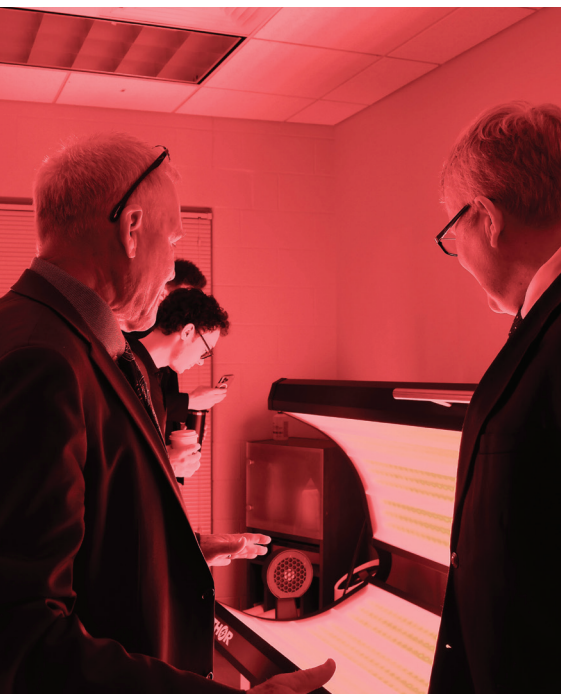
President Hendrix's family legacy of University support has been consistent; her mother was a founding member of the Foundation and served as a board officer for years.

Carol Ann also has a family history with the Foundation. Her father, William "Pappy" Thacher, served as the first Foundation president and her mother, Ruth Thacher, was a board officer. "I can recall how thrilling it was when the first million was reached," said Carol Ann. "Those folks then would certainly be in awe of the gains the Foundation has made while Monica was executive vice president." ■

Bonus Content



To view photos of this event and other Foundation activities, visit ShepherdUniversityFoundation.org/galleries/



Photobiomodulation center making strides in light therapy research

BY CECELIA MASON

Since it launched in March 2022, the Center of Excellence for Photobiomodulation at Shepherd University has been working to determine the effectiveness of photobiomodulation (PBM) to treat conditions related to COVID-19 that are currently lacking treatment. In addition, the Center is working with a local business to develop standards for testing PBM equipment.

PBM uses light therapy to promote healing by improving tissue repair and reducing pain and inflammation. Evidence supporting the effectiveness of PBM is growing based on more than 500 human clinical trials in the areas of acute trauma and degenerative diseases such as macular degeneration, osteoarthritis, fibromyalgia, dementia, back and neck pain, shingles, and other neuropathic pain syndromes. PBM can be used alongside many current treatments and often works when other treatments don't, restoring a patient's quality of life.

Thanks to West Virginia Gov. Jim Justice, Shepherd received \$500,000 in Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) money to purchase three devices—a NovoTHOR bed, Kerber USA Canopy, and a handheld SunPowerLED.

"This has allowed us to begin offering

low dose red and near-infrared light administration as an additional wellness service to our campus and surrounding communities at the Suzanne Shipley Wellness Center," said Dr. Jennifer Flora '06, '08 MBA, Wellness Center director. "Benefits of our Wellness PBM service include improved overall wellness, enhanced athletic performance, temporary relief of pain and soreness, reduced joint stiffness, and increased mobility."

The devices available through the Center enable Shepherd to be at the forefront of PBM research, testing, and therapy.

Long COVID research

Between March and October 2022, the Wellness Center provided more than 1,000 sessions to 219 clients, including for patients participating in studies on whether PBM is effective in treating

"Benefits of our Wellness PBM service include improved overall wellness, enhanced athletic performance, temporary relief of pain and soreness, reduced joint stiffness, and increased mobility."



The Center of Excellence for Photobiomodulation officially opened with a ribbon cutting on March 21, 2022

lingering symptoms that many people experience after having a COVID-19 infection, termed long COVID. One study was completed during the summer, and another is ongoing.

Tiffany Sommer, a Shepherd Doctor of Nursing Practice student from Inwood, West Virginia, spent six weeks in June and July 2022 evaluating the effect PBM has on fatigue and shortness of breath—two of the most frequently experienced conditions in long COVID patients. Dr. Kelly Watson Huffer, associate professor of nursing education, oversaw the study.

Participants used PBM therapy up to three times a week for 12 minutes at a time for six weeks. They were evaluated three times during the study—before therapy, at the three-week mark, and after six weeks. The study showed a measurably significant improvement in fatigue levels after six weeks but no statistically significant findings when oxygen saturation levels were measured to determine shortness of breath.

Dr. Robert Bowen, a Martinsburg, West Virginia, physician and president of the Foundation for Photobiomodulation Research, is currently studying whether

PBM therapy helps patients with long COVID who suffer from cognitive impairment or “brain fog.” Bowen’s study has 15 participants and utilizes survey questionnaires, computer games, and puzzles to measure brain function. In addition, Bowen is assessing patients’ brain processing speed and power using quantitative electroencephalography, a technique that measures how well the brain processes information.

The volunteers in Bowen’s study receive three treatments per week for 12 weeks. Data from the first six patients show a 55 percent reduction in time to complete a computer task, 15 percent improvement in brain processing speed, and 45 percent improvement in brain processing power. All the patients improved their measurement of brain power, brain processing speed, and time to complete a task.

“There is more data that will be analyzed, but these preliminary results are very encouraging,” Bowen said.

Setting standards

In addition to testing PBM therapy on long COVID patients, the Center of Excellence for Photobiomodulation opened a lab in

White Hall with the goal of developing protocols to test and certify the devices used in light therapy treatments. The Center partnered with KRM Associates, Inc., a Shepherdstown, West Virginia, healthcare information technology company headed by Holly McCall ’04.

The Center and KRM developed a protocol to test PBM devices against manufacturer standards, measuring the intensity and bandwidth of each device. Throughout the duration of the grant period, which ran from March to September 2022, the lab was able to successfully test five devices.

This pilot test has created a standardized protocol for certification where none existed before in this emerging healthcare industry. The Center and KRM are seeking additional funding to formalize a standardized testing protocol.

The Suzanne Shipley Wellness Center offers photobiomodulation treatments to the public on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. For more information, visit the Suzanne Shipley Wellness Center PBM webpage at ShepherdWellness.com/Photobiomodulation/. ■



CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF WOMEN'S BASKETBALL *—then and now*

THEN

BY LINDA "LIN" STAUB '74

It seems like 1972 was only yesterday when I was a junior at Shepherd College majoring in health and physical education. It was an exciting time for girls' and women's sports. Due to the 1972 implementation of Title IX, a mandate by Congress for schools receiving federal money to provide women with the same athletic opportunities as their male counterparts, we were finally going to have intercollegiate sports for women at Shepherd.

Dr. Martha S. Neff was charged with assembling the first women's basketball team. It was quite a challenge since the game had changed from six to five players and many of the students who tried out had little or no experience with five-player basketball. With a little luck, Coach Neff assembled the

first team with 10 players, all health and physical education majors, and two managers.

Since Coach Neff was building the team from scratch, there was a lot to learn. There was minimal money, \$1,000, set aside for the team, so this was going to be a big challenge for everyone.

First, where and when would we practice? The men used the main gymnasium in the Health and Physical Education Building (later named Sara Cree Hall), so the women were assigned the small auxiliary gym in the building. Unfortunately, that gym had gymnastics equipment all around the edge of the basketball court, so it was tricky practicing without getting hurt.

Next, what about uniforms? We went to the college bookstore and personally bought white tube socks with blue and gold

stripes, navy blue gym shorts, and blue t-shirts with Shepherd College on the front. Several team members went to Martinsburg and bought felt numbers for the team. Then in our dorms, each of us ironed on the numbers. We were very pleased with the uniforms we assembled.

I can still picture the excitement and trepidation prior to our first game with Shippensburg as my teammates went through warmups. Captains Lois (Barnhart) Deneen '74 and Betty Jane "B.J." Wojcik '74 led the drills. The air was cool in the gym, the lights were bright, and the stands were empty. Coach Neff was pacing up and down the side court surveying the missed shots, and players were nervously awaiting the start of a new era. The tip off came, and we marked our spot in history. We did lose our first game, but during the final game of the season we rallied back to beat Wilson College, ending the season with a winning record of 6-4.

For this article, I interviewed nine members from the 1972-1973 team. Sadly, Coach Neff died in 2018. Here are some collective thoughts about our experience.

What do players remember about playing on the first women's basketball team at Shepherd College?

Captain Lois (Barnhart) Deneen—"I was disappointed that Shepherd did not have any women's intercollegiate teams in 1971 when I arrived. I was very excited when I heard the rumors about the launch of a women's basketball team.

Many P.E. majors tried out for the team. It was good competition. Going to the Morgantown Tournament was a treat for me. It was an honor to play."

Captain "B.J." Wojcik—"Playing at Shepherd was an experience that I wouldn't trade for anything. While living on campus, the atmosphere was a small little community. Students were friendly, and professors were great. I am still in touch with some of my teammates today—50 years later."

Managers Kathi Manahan '75 and Pat Sigle '75—"As managers, we did everything necessary to help the coach and the players. The locker room in the basement was considered the 'dungeon.' It was cold, damp, and musty. We had no team room or weight room. The men's team took priority in the main gym, so we were always in the small gym navigating gymnastics equipment!"

Sue Kennedy '75—"I remember we struggled to get the main gym to practice. It was dominated by the men's team. Coach Neff drove us in the college van to every game. She personally paid for many meals and necessities on the road. We had minimal support for the program in the early years. Limited funding, limited equipment, and no uniforms. There was no accommodation for missing classes or tests when we played on the road. There were no spectators at home games. Students didn't even know there was a college basketball team. However, we were very passionate about playing the sport."

How did playing basketball help your career and life?

Linda "Lin" Staub—"Being a part of a team teaches many life lessons. You learn that everyone is unique and has different needs. As a result, you learn to listen to others, support them and help them achieve success. All these attributes are directly related to my experience of playing and coaching team sports."

B.J. Wojcik—"Playing sports helped me to broaden my career: teaching, coaching, socializing."

Kathi Manahan—"In my career, I was prepared and well organized."

Kathy (Snyder) Kendall '74—"It made me a better coach. It helped me to understand that as a coach, you need to care and develop each player. It made me a better person."

Lois Deneen—"Being part of a team taught me to get along with people, and I learned how to coach team sports, which I did during my career in elementary physical education."

Susan Kennedy—"We learned that hard work, dedication, commitment, and teamwork were all components of a successful career. It helped me as a health and physical education teacher and a high school coach. We learned what works and what does not work."



The 2022-23 Shepherd women's basketball team.

Pat Sigle—“My Army career spanned 21 years on active duty, and I can truly say that basketball coaching helped me to achieve the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. It was one of many things that allowed me to participate in a different way. My varied assignments naturally progressed to more and more responsibility. I believe basketball was something I could always think back to for planning, practicing, and executing situations that would help me.”

How do you feel about celebrating 50 years of women's basketball at Shepherd?

B.J. Wojcik—“I can't believe it's 50 years! I'm glad we jump started a women's basketball team at the college.”

Kathi Manahan—“I look back on the experience as some of the best years of my life, which includes several lifelong friends.”

Kathy Snyder Kendall—“It's nice to be a part of a significant event that has allowed women to continue to play intercollegiate basketball today.”

Linda “Lin” Staub—“I am thrilled that the program is thriving today. It feels good to be a part of the legacy of women's basketball at Shepherd.”

Linda Weller '75—“I am honored and proud to be a member of the first team. Looking back, we created quite a legacy at the college.”

Carol Faucett '75—“I can't believe it's that long ago. That's amazing. The University is so much bigger than when I was there in the 70s.”

Lois (Barnhart) Deneen—“To look back 50 years and remember that I was a member of the first women's basketball team at the college, that was quite an accomplishment. I am honored to be a member of the first team. It's amazing how women's basketball has changed over the past 50 years.”

Susan Kennedy—“We were the pioneers of developing the women's basketball program that students enjoy today. At the time, we did not know what the impact of our experience would result in 50 years later. There were no ‘All Star’ players at the time. There were no individual trophies or rewards. We played out of passion. We played for the love of the game.”

Pat Sigle—“My mind says that it can't be 50 years, but my body tells me it is

50 years. I am glad we started what has now become a fully recognized sport at the University with so much success. They now have the funding, facilities, and so many uniforms! We could have only dreamed about where they are today. I am glad we started and fought for uniforms, practice time, travel, etc. The current players and former players from the late 1970s, 1980s, and beyond really can't know what we went through those first formative years. They need to know that money doesn't grow on trees and there is much more that needs to be done to make Shepherd University women's basketball a powerhouse. Scholarship money is needed, as well as other funding for team needs. One must always look out for those who come after us and support the sport we all love, for they stand on our shoulders and the shoulders of every person who played before them. Yes, women still need critical support from us!”

To memorialize the 50th anniversary of women's basketball at Shepherd, original team members Sigle and Staub created the Shepherd University Women's Basketball Alumni and Supporters Fund, with a goal of raising

Vice President for Athletics Chauncey Winbush '95 (l.) and Lin Staub '74 display the Women's Basketball Team mosaic that Lin created to commemorate 50 years of women's basketball at Shepherd. Lin collected photos that represent teams from 42 of the 50 years.



\$50,000 by 2022. These funds will provide much needed support for the recruitment and retention of players and provide enhancements to ensure the program's competitiveness in both the Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference and on a national level.

A mosaic honoring the 50th anniversary of women's intercollegiate basketball at Shepherd University is now hanging in the Butcher Center. The mosaic is the brainchild of Lin Staub, who was a member of the inaugural 1972 team.

"I was able to capture 42 out of the 50 years," Staub said. "For the future people will be able to see who the players and coaches are. I also created a document that's almost two gigabytes that has all the names, the years they played, and their pictures."

Visit ShepherdRams.com to view, enlarge and even download photos from the mosaic!



NOW

By SYDNEY CLAYTON '22

Sydney Clayton '22 was a member of the 50th anniversary women's basketball team coached by Jill Jenna Eckleberry. The 50th anniversary season was one of the most successful for the Rams, with the team earning the most wins in the program's history and an NCAA tournament berth. Clayton, who currently plays professionally with Basketball Academie Limburg in the Netherlands, interviewed her teammates about what it was like to play during this historic year.

What is it like to be a member of Shepherd's 50th Women's Intercollegiate Basketball team?

Madi White, Hamilton, Virginia—

"It is great to be a member of the 50th Women's Intercollegiate Basketball team. We had a great coach with great support from the University and community. The road trips were always fun, and we had a great time. One of the best experiences, was going to the NCAA tournament."

Taraessha "Rae" Henderson, North Dinwiddie, Virginia—

"I think it's an awesome experience and opportunity to be a part of a group of women who have continued this program from 1972. The fan base and the support from students has been phenomenal as of late for the women's program, but from a University standpoint, there seems to be less support financially and physically (socially) to our game compared to the men's sports on campus."

Hannah Myers, York, Pennsylvania—

"I love being a part of the 50th Women's Intercollegiate Basketball team, and it is a great honor to be a part of something so special. I have been lucky enough to have Coach Eckleberry as my coach for all four years at Shepherd, and she has been one of the best coaches I have ever had. Playing basketball at the college level requires focus and discipline in the classroom to ensure that grade requirements are being met. Shepherd has multiple resources and facilities that can assist student-athletes who may be struggling academically."

Sydney Clayton, Frederick, Maryland—

"It was an honor and great experience being a part of the 50th Shepherd woman's team. The records we set and achievements we were able to reach as a team and individually makes me so proud. Road trips are a great experience. The bus rides are full of goofing around, singing, and game playing. Same goes for the hotel stays. It all makes for great team bonding before our games."

Sydney Bolles, Elkview, West Virginia —

"It is an incredible honor to be a part of this team. Early on, I knew this specific team had so much potential and would go very far in the postseason and that is a great feeling of a way to represent Shepherd and the success of the past 50 years of women's basketball. The support we get is truly remarkable for being a women's team, something you don't see too often, unfortunately. The coach has a great passion for the game. I don't think I've ever learned so much in one season."



Marley McLaughlin, Haymarket, Virginia—

"I am proud to be a member of the 50th Women's Intercollegiate Basketball team. First and foremost, Coach Eckleberry is the best of the best. We were lucky to have had such a knowledgeable coach who truly cares about us. Our practice times are flexible with our class schedules. I am very thankful for that because it makes being a student-athlete much more manageable. Road trips and overnight stays are one of my favorite things about being a college athlete. My team and I play card games in the lobby and sometimes play in the pool together. We are always with each other when we are traveling for a game, therefore we create strong bonds and learn more about one another. The bond we build off the court carries over on to the court, which makes us a better basketball team."

How do you think playing college basketball will help you in your career and life?

Madi White—"It will help me in my career and life, because it has taught me hard work, dedication, and other skills I will be able to apply to the rest of my life."

Rae Henderson—"My professional course in life is to work with patients

Head Basketball Coach Julia Kaufman took over coaching women's intercollegiate basketball at Shepherd—now in its 51st season—in 2022.

Kaufman, a former assistant coach for the Rams, came back to Shepherd after spending the past three seasons as an assistant at Mount St. Mary's. Kaufman served as an assistant coach and recruiting coordinator at Shepherd from 2011-2013. In her final season at Shepherd, the Rams were ranked 14th in the nation in scoring offense and 17th in field goal percentage.

Kaufman is excited to be leading the team into its next 50 years.

“We are so grateful to be able to celebrate 50 years of women's basketball here at Shepherd.”

“Our team this year has a few students from last year's squad with many new faces, including three new coaches! This year, we will dedicate our season to all the women who have been a part of our program the past 50 years,” she said. “We will play hard together and will build on the past success that all the women who have been a part of our program worked for. We hope to continue to show our fans and our supporters through our play how much Shepherd and our program means to us!”

To celebrate 50 years of women's basketball at Shepherd, several events are planned during the 2022-23 season. They include a cocktail meet and greet on December 2 after the game at 7:30 p.m. and a brunch from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. before the December 3 game. Both events are by invitation only.

and deal with less-than-ideal situations. College basketball will have prepared me for that as I can work through struggles and heartbreak and become a stronger individual and stronger doctor.”

Sydney Clayton—“I think playing college basketball has taught me patience, communication, and leadership skills. I think that all of these can be very helpful in everyday life or in my career.”

Sydney Bolles—“Playing basketball at the collegiate level will definitely help me build leadership skills. As of right now, I am planning on becoming a sports psychologist. I believe playing basketball in college will help me develop useful skills for my potential future career.”

Marley McLaughlin—“Playing college basketball has taught me skills that I will always use, such as time management, leadership, conflict resolution, team building, communication, motivation, and organization. These are skills I will use in my career and in life.” ■

Showing how the women's basketball team uniforms have changed since the first team played, Sydney Clayton (left) wears a jersey from the 50th anniversary team, and Lin Staub wears the jersey she wore when playing for the 1972 team.





The Shepherd University Foundation **CELEBRATES 60 YEARS**

(Pictured, l. to r.) Former Foundation President Ramon A. Alvarez '62, former Foundation Executive Vice President Monica Lingenfelter, former Foundation President Mike Smith '89, and current Foundation President Chris Colbert '95.

BY **Kristi Veach-Ross**

The 2021-22 academic year marked the Shepherd University Foundation's 60th anniversary. Founded in 1961, the Foundation has strengthened the work and service of Shepherd by working with donors to raise money for student scholarships, academic and program support, and faculty excellence awards, as well as other University initiatives such as campus renewal and beautification. Since its beginning, the Foundation has upheld its mission to advance the University, and more than a half century later, this goal remains strong.

The Foundation was formed through the collaborative efforts of President Oliver S. Ikenberry and a small group of Shepherd College faculty and alumni. Since its founding, it has celebrated many milestones, propelled by the generosity of the Shepherd community.

The first 20 years of the Foundation were a whirlwind of growth and change. Dean William "Pappy" Thatcher served as the first Foundation president, and in 1972, James "Hank" Moler '30 became the organization's second president. In 1984, nearly 25 years after its creation, the Foundation awarded approximately \$70,000 in student scholarships.

"Without the aid of the private funds raised and administered through the

Foundation, Shepherd University would not be able to achieve and maintain our status as a premiere public liberal arts institution," said Shepherd President Mary J.C. Hendrix, who recognized that the Foundation's contributions to the University have been significant and too numerous to name individually. "The Foundation's dedication to ensuring educational opportunities for our deserving students and enhancing the academic excellence of Shepherd University has provided a wonderfully productive partnership that continues to flourish."

In more recent years, the Foundation has expanded its reach by creating programs such as the McMurrin Society, which recognizes alumni and friends who have chosen to include Shepherd in their estate plans; the Scarborough Society, a friends-of-the-library association; and most recently, Women Investing in Shepherd, a women's giving circle that awards high-impact grants to both Shepherd and nonprofits in the surrounding community. The Foundation has also provided private funding for new campus initiatives, building the Potomac Place residence hall, and creating funds specifically for faculty excellence support. The Foundation currently manages assets of just under \$60 million, providing \$2.5 million in direct support for the University each year.

"As I reflect back on the 60-year history

of the Shepherd University Foundation, I recognize that we could not have come this far without the active engagement and generous donations from passionate and loyal alumni and friends, and the time and efforts of volunteer leaders and dedicated staff," said Shepherd University Foundation President Chris Colbert '95. "On behalf of the Foundation, I sincerely thank everyone who has contributed to 60 years of helping Shepherd students succeed."

Throughout the years, the Foundation has grown to have one of the highest endowments among public universities and colleges in West Virginia. The unwavering support of the Shepherd community is an essential pillar in the Foundation's continued success. The generosity of loyal alumni, faculty, and friends is the driving force behind the Foundation's future.

As the Foundation celebrates the past 60 years, the future is full of possibility and excitement. The Foundation has and will remain dedicated to its commitment and mission to support the advancement and success of Shepherd University.

"I'm privileged and excited to be leading such a dynamic organization at a time when "the future is very bright," Colbert said. "Our goal is to keep the momentum going." ■



'11 Robert Lee Dugan III published a movie commentary book, *Horror Illustrated*. The book includes 10 commentaries on horror movies paired with 10 illustrations. Robert's book is available for purchase on Amazon.



'17 Cara A. Lowery, CPA promoted to supervisor at SEK, CPAs and Advisors. Cara primarily provides tax services to small business and individual clients. She is working on gaining a deeper understanding of taxation for pass-through entities.



'85 John Nissel began a new chapter of his career as the county administrator for Jefferson County (West Virginia.) He has more than 37 years of administrative experience. John oversees the day-to-day operations of county government, which includes oversight of finance, engineering, maintenance, homeland security, communications, and IT and administrative support.

SHEPHERD STUDENTS SUCCEED



To read more about some of the alumni below, scan the QR code to visit our webpage at www.Shepherd.edu/SUAA/Alumni-Highlights

Regional Alumni Communities: Stay Connected Wherever You Are!

Shepherd has active regional alumni groups in the Eastern Shore/Delaware and Southwest Florida areas with more groups forming. Reach out to the ambassador nearest you to join or become an ambassador in your area. Visit www.shepherd.edu/suaa/regional-communities for more information and photo galleries. Contact Jessica Gill with interest or questions at jgill@shepherd.edu or 304-876-5157.



'22 BCT Wealth Advisors, a division of Bank of Charles Town, announced the appointment of **Emma Espinosa** as the firm's client coordinator. Emma worked part time as a teller with the Bank of Charles Town while attending Shepherd University.



'79 Bo Bragaw used the foundation he built at Shepherd to become a successful financial advisor. He has been recognized by Forbes as a 2022 Best in the State Wealth Advisor. The wealth advisors named on the Forbes list have a proven record of guiding their clients through volatile markets. Bo's minimum account size for new business is \$750,000 with team assets of \$271 million.



'05 Alicia Rigglesman has been approved by the Berkeley County (West Virginia) Board of Education as the principal of Musselman High School. Alicia has worked at Musselman since 2008 in various capacities.



'01 Mason Scuderi has acquired an equity stake in d'Vinci Interactive and has been named its president. Mason began his career at d'Vinci in 1997 and will be responsible for further growing d'Vinci as a leading learning solutions and educational technology provider.



'99 Troy Hale professor of practice at Michigan State University, has received his 32nd Emmy Award. Troy won four Emmys just this year for his "Professor on the Road" series over the pandemic.



'18 The Frederick Arts Council announced a new exhibition featuring the work of Shepherd graduate **Alyssa Imes** at FAC's Art Center in Frederick, Maryland. The art installation, "Unstructured Rise," featured a variety of materials including textiles and cast iron that highlighted Alyssa's approach to creating a multimedia experience for her viewers.



'21 New Winchester Medical nurse **Lauren Powell** used skills learned at Shepherd University to help save a patient during her nursing orientation. The patient was being transferred from Medical Telemetry to another floor when the patient began to rapidly deteriorate. Lauren saw that the clinical nurse leader needed help, and she stepped in to assist. The Medical Telemetry clinical manager stated that Lauren gave the response of a seasoned nurse and jumped in like she had been doing this for years.



'19&'21 **Alyssa Roush** was selected by the Delta Zeta Sorority as a 2022 recipient of the 35 under 35 award.



'08 **Scott Campbell** joins Jefferson County (West Virginia) Public Schools as the new principal of Shepherdstown Elementary School.



'03&'17 **Jessica Rennee Graham, MS, MBA, NSCA-CPT**, completed her doctoral journey in February 2022. Jessica graduated from Northcentral University with an Ed.D. in organizational leadership. She is a full-time faculty member at Shepherd University and lives in Shepherdstown with her husband Mike and two children, Michael and Jocilyn.



'18 Orion Strategies, a multi-stage strategic communications and public relations firm, has recently added Shepherd graduate **Brooke Dillow** to its Shenandoah Valley location. Brooke joins a robust team of professionals to aid clients with developing and executing public relations campaigns, strategizing social media development, orchestrating community relations efforts, and creating and placing earned media with local outlets.

'13 **Kristen (Boyd) Liberman** markets Palm Beach County, Florida, around the globe as vice president of marketing and media relations at the Business Development Board. She now resides in Boynton Beach, Florida, but the country roads always call her back home to visit her family.



'01 Elizabeth (Liz) McCormick

was recently promoted to webmaster/digital coordinator of West Virginia Public Broadcasting (WVPB). Liz has been with WVPB for nearly eight years, starting as an intern in May 2014. Liz also serves as the associate producer on WVPB's annual television program, The Legislature Today, which runs during the West Virginia legislative session.



'69 **Jim Auxer** has served as mayor of Shepherdstown for almost 20 years. He has been on the Shepherd University Alumni Association board of directors for many years, now as a director emeritus, and currently holds the office of president in the organization. He is also a founding member of the Gridiron Club, which fundraises to support the efforts of the Shepherd Rams football team. Most recently, Jim had an endowment named in his honor by former Shepherd President Suzanne Shipley and her husband benefitting the Suzanne Shipley Wellness Center, where Jim can be found most days chatting with students, community members, employees, and guests.



'68 **Maritta Perry Grau**, Shepherd's Special Collections Librarian Frances Marshall, and Maritta's brother, David Perry, hold printer's typesetting forms that they recently donated to the Scarborough Library. The artifacts had belonged to Maritta and David's father, Henry Perry, a professor of English and journalism, and advisor to the Shepherd College Picket (and, in later years, the Cohongoroota yearbook) from 1960-1978. Maritta holds the Picket nameplate, while David holds a Shepherd College logo created for the college centennial in 1972.



'83 **Deborah Loercher-Midgett** founded the branding company, Anoroc Agency, in 1993; and it was the first woman-owned agency in Raleigh, North Carolina. Over 29 years, her company served clients across the country as well as in Europe, China, and Africa.



'14 **Johnna Leary** appeared in her first national commercial, playing Brita, the lead Viking Opera Queen, in the new JG Wentworth opera redux commercial currently airing.

CELEBRATING THE *Ram Fam*

Tom Valentine '72 and **Connie (Lawler) Valentine '72** recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. The couple met at Shepherd and have been recently inducted into the Emeritus Club.



Noah Blacker '18 and **Becca Colbert '20** became engaged May 15, 2022. Noah and Becca met through the soccer program at Shepherd. They will be married in Ijamsville, Maryland, in June 2023.

**BIRTH
ANNOUNCEMENT**



Dana Salas Norris '08 and husband, Drew, welcomed a son, Reed Raymond, on December 26, 2021. He joins big brothers Wade, Colt, and Dean, and big sister, Aria.

Kristen Boyd '13 married **Adam Liberman** in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, on May 29, 2021. After graduating Shepherd University, Kristen temporarily moved to Florida to further her education, but the plans became permanent when she met Boca Raton-native, Adam. The two now call Boynton Beach, Florida, home with their Pomeranian, Ollie, and golden retriever, Hooper.



ALDA SENCINDIVER '50
Morgantown, WV, 07/14/2022

RUTH REIVER WUNDER WHEATLEY '51
Millsboro, DE, 10/29/2021

BETTIE J. PORTERFIELD '54
Roanoke, VA, 11/24/2021

MILDRED PRICE '55
Hagerstown, MD, 08/21/2021

BENJAMIN J. GUNN '55
Harpers Ferry, WV, 07/31/2022

JACK L. WEST '55
Spartansburg, SC, 01/15/2022

RALPH W. WYAND '55
Hagerstown, MD, 02/28/2022

EDWARD C. CASTLE '57
Hagerstown, MD, 01/11/2022

JOSEPH W. ROBESON '58
Hagerstown, MD, 03/25/2022

RETHA M. BUSEY '58
Martinsburg WV, 02/26/2022

LYNN SHIRLEY '58
Shepherdstown, WV, 08/10/2021

JAMES BROWN '59
Williamsport, MD, 03/06/2022

MARY JANE DAVIS '60
Winchester, VA, 01/07/2022

DOROTHY R. COYLE '60
Culpeper, VA, 01/01/2022

PAUL SWARTZ '60
Maugansville, MD, 04/19/2022

KENNETH W. MYERS '63
Hagerstown, MD, 11/11/2021

GEORGE R. WARNER '64
Hummelstown, PA, 01/22/2022

JAMES "JIM" A. MILLAR '64
Fayetteville, AR, 01/30/2022

JANET MAE LEDANE SHERRARD '66
Gerrardstown, WV, 03/07/2022

CHARLES W. MCLURKIN '68
Newburgh, NY, 09/13/2021

JOYCE L. OATES '69
Martinsburg, WV, 01/18/2022

ROGER T. TWIGG '69
Martinsburg WV, 11/12/2021

DARIS L. SMALL '70
Martinsburg, WV, 10/13/2021

JOHN S. NEWBRAUGH '70
Berkeley Springs, WV, 04/01/2022

MARY SUE BURLEY '71
Hagerstown, MD, 03/05/2022

JERRY WILLIAMS '71
Falling Waters, WV, 03/03/2022

PAUL A. SEIBERT '71
Taylors, SC, 04/08/2022

MARLENE SHANK '72
Boonsboro, MD, 07/27/2022

JACOB HENDREICKS, II '73
Hagerstown, MD, 12/03/2021

ANNA BULLOCK '76
Kearneysville, WV, 12/18/2021

GARNETT CANBY '76
Martinsburg, WV, 02/18/2022

MARIANNE SCHICK FINE MARVEL '77
Cape Coral, FL, 03/03/2022

DONALD F. COPENHAVER '77
Martinsburg WV, 04/12/2022

MARK LEON SPESSARD '78
Hagerstown, MD, 04/06/2022

DENNIS L. FRALEY '79
Frederick, MD, 05/04/2022

JENNIE M. HILL '81
Martinsburg, WV, 11/14/2021

BERNARD "B.D." BRENT '81
Martinsburg, WV, 02/11/2022

PATRICIA ESTIGOY '83
Martinsburg, WV, 05/24/2021

MARY B. REED '84
Martinsburg, WV, 05/11/2022

JUNE R. CATHCART '85
Hagerstown, MD, 01/15/2022

TIMOTHY PAGE MURPHY '86
Clear Brook, VA, 05/21/2022

MARY M. DOWNEY '89
Baltimore, MD, 04/22/2022

BRIANNE FRAZIER '05
Apopka, FL, 11/16/2021

KELLY S. ANDERSON '09
Myrtle Beach, SC, 01/06/2022

CHARLES R. HIGGINS '16
Harpers Ferry, WV, 02/23/2022



Gary Wayne Walsh '78 passed away on March 10, 2022. Gary was a 1970 graduate of Shepherdstown High School. He lettered in football, basketball, and baseball and was inducted into the Shepherdstown High School Athletic Hall of Fame in 2019 for his records in football and baseball. Gary was a 1978 graduate of Shepherd College with a degree in Secondary Education. He played football as a freshman and was involved in Greek Life. After college, he was employed by Maryland Correctional Institution in

Hagerstown, Maryland, for 22 years and retired as a captain in 2005. For the past ten years, he played pool and was a member of the Four Corners 8-ball and 9-ball League, where his teammates acquired trophies in the Tri-Annual Championship of the American Pool Association. Gary often qualified as MVP in his league and credited his talent to frequenting Smitty's Pool Hall in Shepherdstown while a student at Shepherd. He was married to his wife, Anna Walsh, class of 1975, for 41 years.



Ken Boone '76 passed away on September 18, 2022. Ken was a longtime Shepherd supporter and former Shepherd football player. The Kenneth J. Boone Fieldhouse at Ram Stadium bears his name. "Ken was an ardent and dedicated supporter of Shepherd athletics. His generosity has been instrumental in our success. He will be greatly missed. We will keep his family and friends in our thoughts and prayers," said Shepherd Vice President for Athletics Chauncey Winbush.



Doris C. Costello '51 passed away on March 13, 2022, in Halltown, West Virginia. She graduated from Shepherd College in 1951 with a Bachelor of Science in Biological Sciences and a Bachelor of Arts in Secondary Education. She completed additional teaching certification hours at George Washington University and received her lifetime teaching certificate in West Virginia. Doris started teaching at Brunswick High School in September 1951, and her teaching career lasted for 34 years.



Rams locker room named for Coach Walter Barr

The legacy of the late Walter Barr, a dedicated and beloved Rams football coach from 1971 to 1985, lives on now that the newly renovated Coach Walter Barr Locker Room in Boone Field House has been named after him.

The Shepherd University Gridiron Club led the effort to raise more than \$50,000 to renovate the Coach Walter Barr Locker Room, which now sports new flooring, freshly painted lockers, new furniture branded with the Shepherd Rams logo, eight televisions, and more than 60 photos highlighting many Rams football moments.

“The Gridiron Club was proud to support this project honoring the legacy of the late Coach Walter Barr,” said Jim Auxer ’69, Gridiron Club member and Shepherd University Alumni Association president. “The locker room is filled with pictures that celebrate the past and inspire our team as they strive for excellence on and off

the field. We are very grateful to our former players, coaches, alumni, and friends who supported this initiative.”

The Gridiron Club hosted a locker room dedication on September 16, 2022, with special guests including Barr’s wife, Connie, and her children and grandchildren. Many former players and coaches also attended.

Head football coach of the WVIAC championship teams in 1972, 1982, and 1983, Coach Barr impacted the lives of many athletes during his time at Shepherd, an impact that lives on today. The Coach Walter Barr Locker Room recognizes his passion and devotion to Shepherd football. ■





Regional Alumni Communities: Stay Connected Wherever You Are!

Shepherd has active regional alumni groups in the Eastern Shore/Delaware, Southwest Florida, and DMV areas with more groups forming. Reach out to the ambassador nearest you to join or become an ambassador in your area. Visit www.shepherd.edu/suaa/regional-communities for more information and photo galleries. Contact Jessica Gill with interest or questions at jgill@shepherd.edu or 304-876-5157.

Alumni Owned Business

The Shepherd University Alumni Association wants to recognize and promote our alumni owned businesses. All alumni business owners who register their business receive a window decal and promotion through social media and the alumni association webpages. Contact Jessica Gill at jgill@shepherd.edu with your name, class year, business name, and business address.

Meyer and Associates

The Shepherd University Alumni Association sponsors an Alumni Benefits Program as a service to alumni. The program offers a variety of attractively-priced insurance products, most of which are available to alumni, students, faculty, and staff, as well as their spouses, domestic partners, children, parents, and siblings. Some insurance products include auto, home and renters insurance, life insurance, travel insurance, pet insurance, identity theft protection, student loan refinancing, and more.

For more information, visit www.shepherd.meyerandassoc.com or contact our program administrator (Meyer and Associates) at 800-635-7801.

Alumni Association now accepting nominations for 2023-2024 Outstanding Alum, Finest Under 40 honorees

The Shepherd University Alumni Association is now taking nominations for the 2023-2024 Outstanding Alumnus/a of the Year and the next class of Finest Under 40. Each year, nominations for these awards are voted on by the Alumni Association Board of Directors at its June meeting. Criteria and nomination forms can be found at www.shepherd.edu/suaa/alumni-recognition-programs

All nominations are due by June 1, 2023.

Sustaining Membership

We encourage you to transform your experience with your alumni association! You can purchase sustaining membership status and expand your benefits to receive one homecoming football game ticket, one basketball game ticket, and two brand new benefits: TravelPerks platinum and working advantage—on top of the standard membership benefits. You can purchase your sustaining membership for \$50 annually, or purchase a joint membership for you and your spouse for \$75 annually. The membership year runs July 1-June 30, however memberships purchased in March are rolled forward into the new membership year.

Make memories, plan travel, become engaged with your alma mater, build relationships, and begin transforming the future of you! Once A Ram, Always A Ram!



Learn more about benefits
at [www.shepherd.edu/suaa/
sustaining-membership](http://www.shepherd.edu/suaa/sustaining-membership).

Kaufman named Shepherd women's basketball coach

Julie Kaufman has been named head women's basketball coach, replacing Jenna Eckleberry, who resigned to take the head coaching job at Frostburg State.

"We are very excited to name Julie Kaufman our new head women's basketball coach," said Chauncey Winbush '95, Shepherd vice president for athletics. "Julie brings a ton of experience from all divisions of college basketball as well as an infectious excitement for the game, our institution, and most importantly for the overall student-athlete experience. With the support of our institution, community, and alumni, I am sure Julie will be extremely successful in her new role."

Kaufman, a former assistant coach for the Rams returns to Shepherd after spending the past three seasons as an assistant at Mount St. Mary's University. She helped lead the Mount to back-to-back NEC Championship titles and a pair of NCAA Tournament appearances in 2020-21 and 2021-22.

"I am extremely grateful for the opportunity to come back to Shepherd as the next head coach. I want to thank President Hendrix, Vice President for Athletics Chauncey Winbush, and the committee for trusting me to lead the women's basketball team," said Kaufman. "I am excited to provide a positive environment that challenges our players on and off the basketball court. I am confident that my staff and I will create a culture for our young women to compete and be successful. I want to graciously thank my family and the small circle of people who have supported me throughout the years and who continue to assist me in my journey. I cannot wait to get to work and reconnect with the Shepherd community and our student-athletes!"

Prior to working at the Mount, Kaufman spent the 2016-17 season as an assistant coach at Niagara University.

Kaufman worked as an assistant coach from 2013-16 at Seton Hill University, where she primarily worked to help develop the team's post players.

Kaufman served as an assistant coach and recruiting coordinator at Shepherd from 2011-13. In her final season at Shepherd, the Rams were ranked 14th in the nation in scoring offense and 17th in field goal percentage.

Kaufman began her collegiate coaching career at Hood College as a graduate assistant from 2008-11. Prior to her time at Hood, she served as the assistant varsity coach and assistant track and field coach at Southern Guilford High School from 2006-08, and at Damascus High from 2005-06.

Kaufman played basketball at Catawba College, where she helped lead her squad to a pair of conference championships and two NCAA Division II regional appearances.

Kaufman earned her bachelor's degree in physical education from Catawba in 2005. She added a master's degree in curriculum and instruction from Hood in 2011. ■



Purtell garners Academic All-American honors

Senior third baseman Nicole Purtell (Centreville, Virginia) of the Shepherd softball team was named to the 2022 CoSIDA Academic All-America® Division II Softball team, as selected by the College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA). Purtell, a third-team selection, garnered CoSIDA Academic All-American accolades for the second consecutive year.

Purtell boasts a 3.88 GPA with a double major in business administration and sociology.

She led the Rams with a .426 batting average with 55 hits in 129 at-bats. Her 55 hits, 36 runs scored, 10 doubles, and five triples topped the team. She also had a team-best .493 on-base percentage and topped the team in stolen bases (14) and walks drawn (17).

Purtell joins Robert Hayes (football: 2012, 2013), Jacob Carney (baseball: 2015, 2017), Myles Humphrey (football: 2016, 2017), and Ricky Robinson (football: 2019, 2020, 2021) as Shepherd student-athletes who have earned multiple Academic All-American honors.



Shepherd baseball team named 2021-22 ABCA Team Academic Excellence Award winner

The American Baseball Coaches Association (ABCA) announced that the Shepherd baseball team has been recognized as one of the nearly 700-member college and high school programs from across the country that have been awarded the 2021-22 ABCA Team Academic Excellence Award. The award is presented by Sports Attack.

More than 420 collegiate programs were recognized with this year's award.





Shepherd women's lacrosse team, players honored by IWLCA

The Shepherd women's lacrosse team and five players were honored by the Intercollegiate Women's Lacrosse Coaches Association (IWLCA). The team was named to the 2022 IWLCA Academic Honor Squad for posting a 3.2 GPA or higher for the academic year. Additionally, senior midfielder Kira Barth (Sykesville, Maryland), senior attacker Katherine Campbell (Montgomery Village, Maryland), senior midfielder Valerie Haney (Columbia, Maryland), graduate student attacker Sidney Kelly

(Hagerstown, Maryland), and junior midfielder Molly McCook (Hagerstown, Maryland) were named to the 2022 IWLCA Division II Academic Honor Roll. To be eligible for this honor, student-athletes must have reached junior status or higher with a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or greater.

Barth appeared in all 16 games with one start. She had 10 goals and one assist for 11 points. She added 16 ground balls, seven caused turnovers, and three draw controls.

Campbell appeared and started in all 16 games. She had 28 goals and a team-high 27 assists for a team-high 55 points. She added 20 ground balls and five caused turnovers.

Kelly appeared and started in all 16 games. She recorded 21 goals and 12 assists for 33 points. She added 11 ground balls, four caused turnovers, and a draw control.

Haney and McCook sat out the 2022 season.

Shepherd Athletic Hall of Fame adds three

The Shepherd University Athletic Hall of Fame inducted three new members at the annual induction banquet on October 7, 2022, at the Student Center Storer Ballroom. Chad Broadwater '98 (football), Ric Hutterly '65 (men's swimming), and Glenn Edwards '74 (men's tennis) are the 36th class to be inducted. The "terrific trio" bring the total number of inductees in the Shepherd Athletic Hall of Fame to 162. The trio was also recognized at the Lock Haven-Shepherd football game on October 8, 2022.

Broadwater was a member of the Shepherd football team from 1994-97. He completed 455-of-897 passes for 6,583 yards and 60 touchdowns in his career. He finished his career as the program's all-time leader in pass

Pictured (l. to r.) Ric Hutterly, Glenn Edwards, and Chad Broadwater
Photo credit: John and Pam Boyle



completions, pass attempts, passing yards, passing touchdowns, and total offense. He was a member of the WVIAC championship teams in 1994 and 1997. A three-time All-WVIAC selection, he served as a team captain in 1997.

Hutterly was a member of the men's swimming team from 1960-62 and 1963-65. Hutterly won eight individual conference titles and contributed to three relay crowns over his career. He was a member of three WVIAC champion teams for the Rams. He later had success as a swimming coach at Western Colorado University and Eastern Washington University. He mentored seven All-Americans and his 1967-68 team at Western Colorado ranked ninth nationally. Hutterly coached four All-Americans at

Eastern Washington and had a pair of nationally ranked squads.

Edwards was a four-year member of the Shepherd men's tennis team from 1970-74. He posted a 35-13 career singles record as he played three years at number one and one year at number two. A three-time team captain, Edwards was a member of the 1971 undefeated team. He went on to a successful career as an educator and coach in West Virginia. He has led the Jefferson High School boy's tennis team to over 700 wins since he became head coach in 1980. He served as its golf coach from 1987-93. Edwards has guided its boy's and girl's swimming teams since 1997, and has built those teams into regional powers.

SPRING *RECAPS*

BASEBALL

The Rams finished the 2022 season with an 18-22-1 overall record with a 10-13-1 mark in conference play. A pair of Rams garnered All-PSAC East honors. Senior catcher **Zach Doss** (Waldorf, Maryland) was a first-team selection, while junior first baseman **Ross Mulhall** (Morgantown, West Virginia) garnered second-team honors.

Doss recorded a .354 batting average with 45 hits in 127 at-bats. He drove in 20 runs and scored 10. He added eight doubles and a home run. His .432 on-base percentage, .441 slugging percentage, and .873 on-base plus slugging (OPS) were among the top efforts on the team. Doss posted a perfect 1.000 fielding percentage in 171 chances.

Mulhall batted .356 with a team-best 53 hits in 149 at-bats. He drove in a team-best 43 runs and scored 26 more. He topped the team in home runs (13), doubles (14), sacrifice flies (4), total bases (106), slugging percentage (.711), and OPS (1.116). Mulhall earned PSAC East Athlete of the Week (March 14) and NCBWA Atlantic Region Hitter of the Week (March 16) accolades during the 2022 season.

WOMEN'S TENNIS

The Rams finished the 2021-22 season with a 7-8 overall mark with a 3-3 record in conference play. Shepherd posted back-to-back 4-3 wins over Shippensburg and Millersville late in the season to allow the Rams to reach the .500 mark in conference action.

MEN'S TENNIS

The men's tennis team completed the season with a 5-9 overall mark with an 0-6 record in conference play. Freshman **Sebastian Sevilla** (Ambato, Ecuador) garnered PSAC Men's Tennis Freshman of the Year honors.

Sevilla posted a 9-2 mark in singles play. Seven of his nine wins were in straight sets. He added a 7-4 record in doubles action.

SOFTBALL

The Rams recorded a 19-20 overall record with a 9-7 mark in conference play. A pair of Rams gained All-PSAC East honors. Senior third baseman **Nicole Purtell** (Centreville, Virginia) and junior designated player **Cameron Davis** (Ayden, North Carolina) were first-team selections.

Purtell led the Rams with a .426 batting average with 55 hits in 129 at-bats. Her 55 hits, 36 runs scored, 10 doubles, and five triples led the team. She also boasted a team-best .493 on-base percentage and topped the team in stolen bases (14) and walks drawn (17).

Davis recorded a .388 batting average with 45 hits in 116 at-bats. Her 11 home runs and 37 RBI led the team. She also scored 24 runs and added seven doubles and a triple, while topping the team in slugging percentage (.750), on-base plus slugging (1.205), and hit-by-pitch (3).

WOMEN'S LACROSSE

The Rams posted a 5-11 overall mark with a 3-9 record in PSAC East play. Senior attacker **Katherine Campbell** (Montgomery Village, Maryland) was named to the 2022 All-PSAC East Team as a second-team selection.

A two-year team captain, Campbell led the Rams in points (55) and assists (27). Her 28 goals were second on the team. She added 20 ground balls, causing five turnovers. Campbell scored two goals or more in nine contests and had multiple assists in eight contests. She capped her career with a three-goal, six-assist effort in Shepherd's win over Kutztown in the season finale on April 30, 2022.

WOMEN'S GOLF

The Rams had two participants—sophomore **Amanda Deener** (Middletown, Maryland) and sophomore **Ciara Scafide** (Knoxville, Maryland)—in the PSAC Championship. The Rams placed fourth in the Fairmont State Fall Invitational.

MEN'S GOLF

The Rams placed seventh in a 10-team field at the PSAC Championship. The season was highlighted by a win at the Cardinal Classic in a 12-team field. Additionally, senior **Mason Kidwell** (Charles Town, West Virginia) qualified for NCAA II regional play and finished 34th in a field of 108 golfers. ■

Alumni applaud and support Shepherd community

When Ben '08 and Danielle '10 Deuell began their academic careers as Shepherd Rams, they joined a community that would last a lifetime. Residents of Berkeley County, West Virginia, Ben and Danielle were familiar with the area. However, their pull to Shepherd went beyond close proximity. Danielle attended with a tennis scholarship, and Ben chose Shepherd due to the institution's small, intimate setting.

"I think that we both probably agree that we had very successful social and academic times at Shepherd," said Ben. "It's where Danielle and I met."

Ben and Danielle met through Greek life, an experience they also credit with great friends, memorable events and philanthropic endeavors that shaped their time at Shepherd. After graduation, they remained local, except for a brief time away for Ben's emergency medicine residency training, and the relationships they had built with their classmates endured. They chose to give back to the institution that was so influential in their lives. "It's a very important part, to be able to have that relationship with those individuals and with the school that's so close to home," Ben said.

In addition to the lasting relationships, Danielle treasures the welcoming nature of the Shepherd community.

"We like raising our children in that environment and bringing them back around here. That's why I've grown to love it even more," Danielle explained.

Outside of Shepherd, Danielle enjoys spending time with her family and can often be found helping her kids at the dance studio. When not working, Ben enjoys his family time, golf, and woodworking projects. He also currently serves as vice president of the Shepherd University Foundation Board of Directors.

Ben notes that they are early in their philanthropic journey, but they hope to continue supporting Shepherd in areas they enjoy, such as science, athletics, and the arts. They aim to provide opportunities for students who may not otherwise be able to explore these subjects. With time, they will explore funding more consistent long-term scholarship opportunities to support these passions.



"I think that Shepherd has really grown in the last five to ten years as a premier school in the state of West Virginia," Ben said. "There is a great future ahead, and we're both proud to be a part of it and excited to see where it goes."

The generosity, dedication, and support of donors like the Deuells is crucial to Shepherd's continued growth and success. Ben and Danielle have demonstrated the importance of connection and community throughout Shepherd. Their compassion and support for the University will propel the success of future generations of Shepherd Rams. ■

Many of our supporters are surprised to learn they can make their impact greater by completing one simple task: **creating an estate plan**. We've partnered with FreeWill to bring you an easy, online resource that can help you write your will in less than 20 minutes. This fall, account for all of your assets, protect yourself and your loved ones, and consider including a planned gift to Shepherd University to support future and prospective students for years to come.

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Shepherd University Foundation
and the Center for Appalachian
Studies and Communities bring

BARBARA KINGSOLVER

to West Virginia BY DR. SYLVIA BAILEY SHURBUTT



Photo credit: Steven L. Hopp

One of the most respected writers today, Barbara Kingsolver worked throughout the spring and summer with the Appalachian Heritage Writer-in-Residence (AHWIR) Committee on a series of projects, including the West Virginia Fiction Competition and a website that includes new scholarly and critical resources on her voluminous work. Kingsolver's novels, essays, short stories, and poetry have been pouring from her pen for more than 30 years. She has championed the environment, the underclasses, and social and political justice through her writing, and that body of work was honored by the West Virginia Humanities Council through the Appalachian Heritage Writer's Award on September 29, 2022. Kingsolver also serves as the 2022 One Book One West Virginia common reading writer. She joined an appreciative audience in the Eastern Panhandle and across the state virtually during the last week of September to share her wisdom and her words.

Barbara Kingsolver was raised in rural Kentucky and lived for a time in the Congo where her parents served in the public health field when she was a child. She attended DePauw University on a piano scholarship but graduated with a science degree, the environment always a passion. After a year living in France and other parts of Europe, she settled in Tucson, Arizona, where she attended graduate school at the University of Arizona, receiving a master's degree in ecology and evolutionary biology and completing course work for her Ph.D.

Kingsolver worked as a science writer for the University of Arizona, doing freelance journalism and going on to become an established freelance author. She published her first novel *The Bean Trees* in 1988, after which she moved for a year to the Canary Islands, when her daughter, Camille, was small, taking a break from U.S. politics and hoping for a Spanish language immersion experience for Camille. She returned to the U.S. in 1992, and in the ensuing years became a full-time writer, publishing books



Photo credit: Evan Kafka

such as *Homeland and Other Stories* (1989), *Animal Dreams* (1990), and *Pigs in Heaven* (1993)—her writing interests centering on the dynamics of family, the environment, and social justice. She often championed the outcasts of society who struggled against powerful patriarchal forces that control all our destinies.

These early novels were skillfully written and award-winning publications; however, the critical and commercial success of *The Poisonwood Bible*, published in 1998, pushed Kingsolver into the top-tier of American writers, the book remaining on the bestseller list for more than a year and becoming an Oprah Book Club selection, as well as winning the National Book Prize of South Africa and shortlisted for both Pulitzer and PEN/Faulkner Awards. In 2000, Kingsolver was awarded the National Humanities Medal by President Clinton, and in 2010 *The Lacuna* won the prestigious Orange Prize for Fiction in

Britain. Other fiction awards include the James Beard Award, the Edward Abbey EcoFiction Award, Lifetime Achievement Award by the Library of Virginia, and the Dayton Literary Peace Prize.

Kingsolver's diverse writing includes essay collections *High Tide in Tucson* (1995) and *Small Wonder* (2002), poetry collections *Another America* (1992) and *How to Fly* (2020), nonfiction works *Holding the Line*, *Women in the Great Arizona Mine Strike* (1983) and *Animal, Vegetable, Miracle* (2007), the latter written with her husband Steven Hopp and daughter Camille. Recent novels connected to Appalachia are *Prodigal Summer* (2000), *Last Stand, America's Virgin Lands* (with Annie Griffith Belt in 2002), *Flight Behavior* (2012), and *Unsheltered* (2018). Kingsolver's newest novel, *Demon Copperhead*, was released on October 18, 2022.

Barbara Kingsolver's *Flight Behavior* was

selected as the West Virginia common read, and the Center for the Book's Heather Campbell was on hand for the AHWIR keynote and the Scarborough Lecture on September 30, 2022. Winners of the West Virginia Fiction Competition, who received hand-written reviews of their stories from Kingsolver, dined with Kingsolver on awards night, and Kingsolver visited local schools to talk with high school students, as well as Shepherd University students in programs such as "The Writer's Life" on September 28 and "The Writers Master Class" on September 29. For full range of programs and environmental events associated with Kingsolver, see the AHWIR website at www.shepherd.edu/ahwirweb/kingsolver/. Programs and events surrounding the Kingsolver residency were funded by the West Virginia Humanities Council, Shepherd University Foundation, and West Virginia Center for the Book. ■

SHEPHERD ALUMNI ARE WORKING TO PRESERVE AND EXPAND HISTORIC TRADES JOBS

BY CECELIA MASON

During a visit to the National Historic Preservation and Training Center (HPTC), you might see employees restoring doors and windows from historic structures that are located all over the country, including the White House. A large map of the United States hangs on a conference room wall. It is covered with push pins that show the locations of all the historic sites where restoration work has been done.

Based in an old bean factory building in downtown Frederick, Maryland, the HPTC has provided training in historic preservation, safety, cultural resource awareness, and trades by delivering historic preservation and construction projects to the National Park Service and other partners for 24 years.

HPTC's 125 employees work on about 120 projects a year anywhere in the country. The Center also offers stand-alone training programs such as brick, earth, stone, and timber workshops; a traditional trades advancement program; a six-month program for youth and veterans; a preservation-in-practice program for historically Black colleges and university students in architecture; skill bridge program for active-duty military; and water, wastewater, heavy equipment operator safety training and chainsaw certification for the park service.

Nicholas Redding '08, president and CEO of Preservation Maryland, and Moss Rudley '99, National Historic Preservation and Training Center superintendent, are working together to address the lack of highly skilled trades people to work on historic structures.

"When we accept a project from a park, we perform the work while teaching individuals different areas from project management to how to scrape and glaze windows," said Moss Rudley '99, HPTC superintendent.

Many of the nation's historic buildings are in great need of repair and restoration, but there is a shortage of historic trades people with the specialized skills and knowledge to properly preserve these structures. Moss is working with fellow Shepherd graduate Nicholas Redding '08, president and CEO of Preservation Maryland, to address the problem.

"The need for creating these pathways to historic trades and apprenticeships has been something that has been missing from the American preservation landscape and was identified as early as the 1960s as something that had to be fixed," Nicholas said.

"If you don't keep that cycle of learning moving forward, there won't be enough people working in historic trades to keep up with demand," Moss said. "At least over the last 80 years we haven't set up a system to create enough skilled knowledgeable trade workers who can do things without using a kit you put together."

With the support of the park service and private philanthropy, Preservation Maryland and HPTC has focused on beginning the process of registering federal apprenticeships for various historic trades, with an emphasis on recruiting both those who want to begin a trade as well as those seeking certifications.

"Not only a mason who wants to be a restoration mason, or a carpenter who wants to do historic carpentry, but a plumber who wants to have a preservation certificate, so you know when you hire this plumber, and you bring them into your historic home they know what they're doing and how to be sensitive to historic fabric," Nicholas said. "We are well on the path of doing that, which will change the landscape of historic trades training in the country."

The program will not only help improve work done for the nation's national parks, it will also benefit private property owners wanting to preserve their buildings.

"The park service gives out millions of dollars in historical tax credits each year," Moss said. "A program like this helps assure that work being done on those historic structures is up to standard."

Preservation Maryland created the Campaign for Historic Trades, which has a full-time recruiter who works with the training center and Conservation Legacy, one of the larger conservation youth corps in the country, with an eye toward diversity.

"Our recruiter is focused on working with existing entry programs and trying to help connect the dots as well with various racial and ethnic groups, veterans, and at-risk youth," Nicholas said. "The goal is to have one trainee in each national park in the country."

Preservation Maryland is also working with the Preservation Trades Network, which was started 24 years ago by the American Institute of Architects and is focused on creating open-source curriculum that aligns with national standards that anyone can use. ■

Moss Rudley '99 points out windows from historic National Park Service properties, including the White House, that need to be repaired.





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