

Shepherd

UNIVERSITY

Magazine

A photograph of hikers on a trail in a mountainous area. In the foreground, a hiker with a large red backpack and a green cap is walking away from the camera. In the background, a group of hikers is walking on a gravel trail. The landscape features a large, rugged rock formation with a waterfall cascading down its face. The area is surrounded by dense evergreen forests and green grass.

THERE AND BACK AGAIN

A Field Experience in Yellowstone
and the Grand Tetons

VOLUME 29 | NO.2 | FALL 2023

SHEPHERD UNIVERSITY

SAVE THE DATE!
GI  **NGTUESDAY**
Tuesday, November 28

A trip of a lifetime to
Yellowstone and
the Grand Tetons

15



Board List	04
President's Letter	05
Homecoming schedule	09
Class transcribes Mather diary	14
Scott Beard lobby dedication	22
East Loop remodel	23
Employees give back	24
Roaming Rams	25
Shepherd Students Succeed	26
Alumni Association Board Officers	30
In Memorandum	32



06

New microscope expands
students' opportunities



10

John and Pam Boyle's view from
the other side of the camera



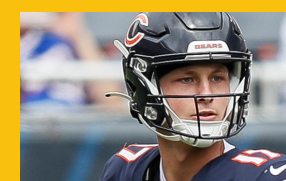
20

Alumnus Paul Wilmoth
helps out at Tabler Farm



33

L.E.A.D.S. program
builds future leaders



37

Tyson Bagent joins
Chicago Bears roster

BOARD LISTS

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The Shepherd University Magazine is published by the Office of University Communications, Office of Alumni Affairs, and Shepherd University Foundation for the Shepherd University community–alumni, donors, current and prospective students, parents, faculty, staff, and friends of the University. A portion of the production cost is underwritten by the Shepherd University Foundation and Shepherd University Alumni Association.

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Cover photo
Maggie Hughes (foreground), Eli Hall, and Abigale Evers (background) hiking through the Yellowstone backcountry toward Fairy Falls during a field experience at Yellowstone National Park in July.



PRESIDENT’S LETTER

I have the privilege of introducing Shepherd University’s Fall Magazine, which focuses on remembering our past, celebrating the present, and advancing our future. Shepherd honored its rich history with the 150th Commencement on May 6, 2023. This was a landmark event for the campus and especially graduating students. Also of historical significance was the history class assignment our students pursued, allowing them to step back to the 17th century and transcribe the diary of Cotton Mather, a prominent New England minister and writer. This was a valuable opportunity for students to learn about the challenges facing individuals in the 1600s and their perspectives regarding health, society, and daily life.

As we celebrate the present, we applaud the record number of dual enrollment program students – a 62% increase over 2022. In addition, we welcomed the largest first-year class since 2018 along with a 2% increase in overall enrollment compared to last year. Shepherd is beating the national trend of college enrollment, and we credit that success to our extraordinary enrollment management team, together with the faculty, staff, and students who collectively serve as remarkable ambassadors for this University. Other diplomats for our institution are the Alumni Association board officers and members. Their plans for increasing engagement are mission focused and exciting. Please stay tuned!

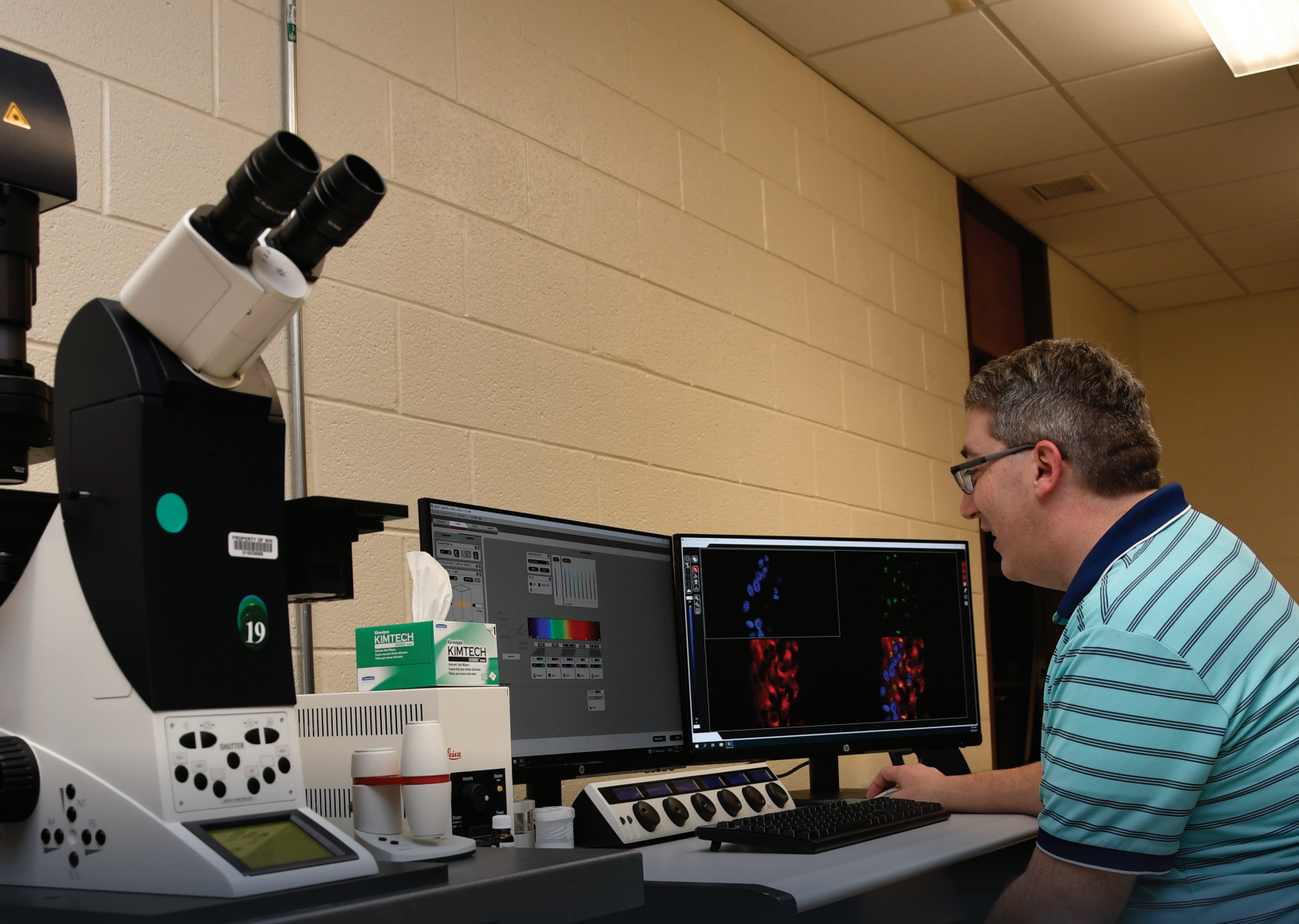
Documenting our past and current accomplishments, especially during athletic competition, are John and Pam Boyle. Their professional photography and journalism expertise combined with their social media channels have advanced the reputation of Shepherd in immeasurable ways. Speaking of beautiful photography, please enjoy the field experience in Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks with participating science faculty and students. Their trip has been described as “transformational.”

The articles describing future opportunities for Shepherd are dedicated, with our profound gratitude, to the noteworthy donors who make these possible. A highly sophisticated Leica confocal microscope was donated to the biology department by the Biological Imaging Facility at the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, one of 27 institutes and centers in the National Institutes of Health. This advanced technology will allow our students to explore the cellular architecture of tissue samples using a cutting-edge approach. A second project involves the continual transformation of Shepherd’s Agricultural Innovation Center at Tabler Farm by remarkable donors like Paul Wilmoth. The farm is thriving with new crops and organic produce. Also noteworthy are the special donors and members of the Friends of Popodicon and the President’s Club, who pooled their resources and efforts to significantly renovate a second-floor bathroom at Popodicon. The finished product is beautiful and will support more rental events, such as weddings, at this historical estate.

Our future is bright – thanks to everyone engaged in helping Shepherd “shine!”

With heartfelt appreciation,

Mary J.C. Hendrix



New microscope expands **RESEARCH, LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES**

by **Cecelia Mason**

Faculty and student research opportunities have expanded in the College of Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics, and Nursing thanks to the spring 2023 donation of a Leica confocal microscope. The Biological Imaging Facility at the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, one of the 27 institutes and centers in the National Institutes of Health, donated the microscope to Shepherd.

“The microscope consists of what you would think of as a traditional microscope, but it has a laser, light detectors, and a computer system,” said Dr. Conor Sipe, assistant professor of biology.

Regular microscopes have light bulbs underneath. Light from those bulbs

travels upwards in a straight line until it hits a tissue sample, then it scatters. When the light scatters, it can make the image look out of focus.

“That’s the limitation of conventional microscopy,” Conor explains. “You can’t get a super sharp image unless you have a very thin piece of tissue that doesn’t scatter the light every which way.”

A confocal microscope sends laser light through a pinhole, preventing the light from scattering when it hits the sample.

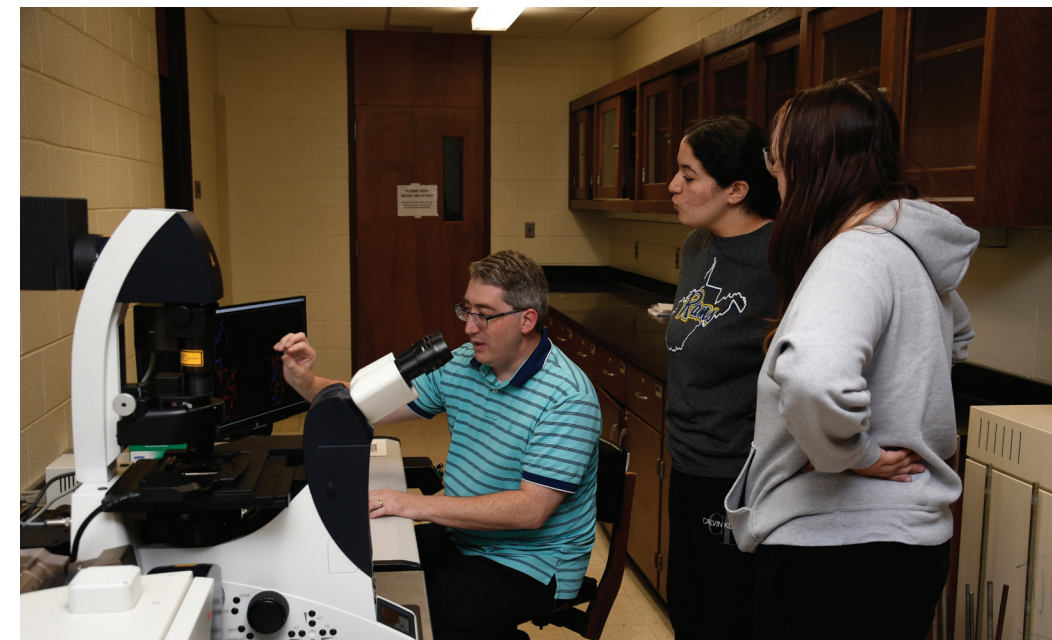
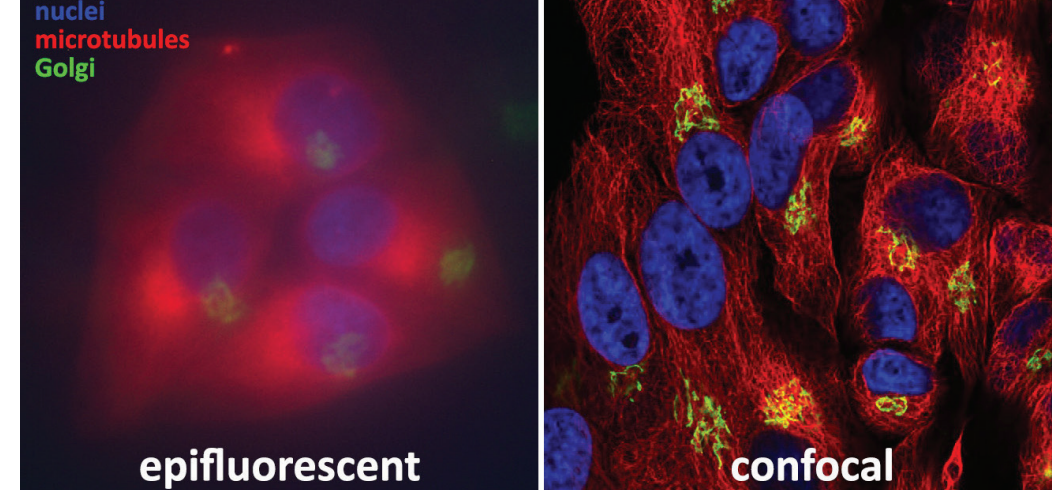
“It removes a lot of that haziness so you can very precisely illuminate a section of tissue or cells,” Conor said.

Scientists use special stains on the cells they are studying. The stains contain antibodies against specific proteins. When they’re put on the cells, the stains bind to and highlight molecules that contain those proteins, dyeing them a particular color.

Conor uses the confocal microscope to study how organisms develop. Using fruit flies, he looks at how the nervous system develops, how the brain is built, the role of nutrients in controlling stem cells, and what happens when a fly larvae’s food supply is disrupted.

“The reason we’re doing this in flies is because they have a fairly simple brain that shares a lot of characteristics with a human brain,” Conor said. “There are two hemispheres, they have a spinal cord-like structure, their stem cells behave very similarly, and the same genes are at work in those cells. So, it’s a good model system for understanding human development.”

Conor’s research is part of a large neuroscience research project under a \$20 million grant from the National Science Foundation’s (NSF) Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR) to the state of West Virginia. Shepherd is receiving \$945,458 of the grant money over the next five years for research and community outreach. Under the grant, up to six undergraduates a year will utilize the microscope as they help with research.



Pictured: (top) The left photo shows the quality of an image taken with a regular microscope as compared to the much sharper image on the right taken with a confocal microscope; (bottom) Dr. Conor Sipe shows students Ronaida Ammari and Erika Voges how the confocal microscope works.

Several other biology professors will be able to make use of the microscope as well, including Dr. Courtney Campany, associate professor of biology, for his plant physiology research, and Dr. Bob Warburton, dean, College of Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics, and Nursing, for cancer cell studies. Students will also benefit from using the microscope in their classes and for various research projects.

Conor said this is a tool that’s used every day for all kinds of research such as cell biology, microbiology, and more translational medical research. The technique of staining cells is also a practical skill used every day in hospital and lab settings.

“I think having the microscope is really going to elevate our curriculum,” Conor said. “And it will bolster students’ resumes. Operating the confocal microscope is an actual skill that they can take when they apply for a job or for graduate school in the biological sciences.”

The College of Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics, and Nursing’s goal is to make this equipment available to students starting in their freshman year.

“So, by the time they get into their junior year, this is an instrument that they are completely familiar with, not just running samples, but trouble shooting, understanding what goes wrong, understanding how to do analysis of data, and how to present that data,” Bob said. ■



Shepherd celebrates 150th Commencement

During Shepherd's 150th Commencement on May 6, 506 undergraduates and 75 graduates were awarded degrees and joined the ranks of Shepherd alumni. Congratulations to all of these students for their accomplishments!

Also conferred during the commencement activities were two honorary degrees:

Dr. Roberta L. DeBiasi, chief of the Division of Pediatric Infectious Diseases at Children's National Hospital in Washington, D.C., received an honorary Doctor of Science degree prior to speaking at the baccalaureate commencement.

Pictured (l. to r.) are Gat Caperton, chair, Board of Governors; Dr. Heidi Hanrahan, chair, Faculty Senate; DeBiasi; and Dr. Mary J.C. Hendrix, Shepherd president.



Lacy I. Rice, founding managing partner of Federal Capital Partners® spoke at the 150th Graduate Commencement after receiving an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree.

Pictured (l. to r.) are Gat Caperton, chair, Board of Governors; Rice; Dr. Mary J.C. Hendrix, Shepherd president; and Dr. Heidi Hanrahan, chair, Faculty Senate.



Shepherd streamlines academic structure

In order to strategically right-size the administrative organization of its academic units, Shepherd University has streamlined its number of academic Colleges to three, down from four.

"The change aligns our academic structure with the evolving needs of our students and their academic interests," said Dr. Robert Tudor, interim provost and vice president for academic affairs.

The realignment also combines several academic departments. The University now has 11 Schools and Departments, down from 19 under the previous structure, with no elimination of academic units.

"We considered several models, consulted with academic leadership, and ultimately selected this format for its efficiency and student-centered makeup," Rob said.

The new Colleges, Schools, and Departments are as follows:

College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences

Department of Contemporary Art, Communications, and Theater

Department of English, History, and Modern Languages

School of Music

Department of Social and Applied Behavioral Sciences

College of Business, Recreation, and Education

Department of Business, Accounting, Economics, and Finance

School of Education

Department of Recreation, Sport, and Exercise Sciences

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

Department of Natural and Physical Sciences

Department of Computer Science, Mathematics, and Engineering

School of Nursing



Show your Ram spirit!

HOMECOMING

SAVE THE DATE! OCTOBER 18-21

It's time to reunite with the Ram Fam, cheer on our Rams, and celebrate all things Shepherd. Show us your Ram Spirit during these events:

Wednesday, October 18

1 p.m.—Women's Soccer vs. Millersville, Shepherd Soccer Complex

4-7 p.m.—Homecoming Field Day, Midway Lawn

Friday, October 20

7 a.m.—32nd Annual Alumni Golf Tournament, The Club at Cress Creek

3 p.m.—Founder's Day Parade, McMurrin Hall to Potomac Place

5-7 p.m.—Annual Reunion Dinner for Business Programs, Storer Ballroom

6:30 p.m.—Shepherd University Athletic Club Homecoming Party, Jefferson Security Bank Pavilion

7-9 p.m.—Homecoming Lip Sync, Reynolds Hall Auditorium

Saturday, October 21

9 a.m.—Complimentary Alumni Breakfast (No RSVP required!), McMurrin Lawn

10 a.m.—Homecoming Parade, German Street, Shepherdstown, WV

Noon—Football vs. West Chester, Ram Stadium

1 p.m.—Men's Soccer vs. Lock Haven, Shepherd Soccer Complex

2 p.m.—Men's and Women's Tennis vs. Salem

After the Football Game—Alumni Association Post-Game Party, Great American Brewing Co., Sharpsburg, MD



For more information about our Homecoming events!

www.shepherd.edu/homecoming2023

A Boyles' Eye View

by Meg Patterson

John and Pam Boyle, whose Shepherd football fan Facebook page has over 6,200 regularly active members, are regarded as the go-to for Ram Nation. Although neither John nor Pam attended Shepherd, their love for the school—and each other—blossomed on the campus grounds. Since 2008, that love has inspired countless others to support the Rams in a myriad of ways, including monetary support for the athletic program and other initiatives.

Under the Influence

Higher education institutions are seeing huge marketing benefits from social media influencers like the Boyles. But John and Pam both agree that being considered successful “influencers” is just a quirky way to describe their dedication to promoting and improving the university.

“I guess that’s a funny way to phrase it,” said Pam, whose first Shepherd game was also her first date with John. “To us, it’s just a football page. We don’t think of ourselves as influencers.”

Pictured: John and Pam Boyle in a rare moment on the other side of the camera at Ram Stadium.

The Boyles’ social media following isn’t something that was developed for personal gain or calculated outcomes. After first being introduced to Shepherd when his daughter, Colleen, transferred from a university in Arizona, John decided to create a football fan page as an outlet to share photos.

“I’ve found that the page is a great way for friends and family to include people who wouldn’t otherwise be able to attend events,” he said. “I originally started documenting the marching band because my daughter was a member. I didn’t know if there was a mechanism or a support group for that or for the athletic program in general. I just did it out of my own motivation to share.”

That generosity eventually created the groundswell of thousands of Facebook users who tune in year-round for Shepherd content.

The Big Picture

The Boyles both cite their journalism backgrounds as the basis for their dedication to documenting football, basketball, baseball, and other Shepherd sports. Pam served as a newspaper reporter and photographer for ten years before joining the U.S. Army, where she continued to do photography and editing for the division magazine. Her intuition for putting the camera in a position where the human eye doesn’t normally go has led to capturing iconic shots of Shepherd football plays like the “Hail Mary” photo from Shepherd’s 2021 win over Kutztown in the NCAA Division II Super Region One final.

Making an Impact

John and Pam Boyle’s enthusiasm for all things Shepherd has made a huge impact on coaches, alumni, students, and community partners.



Ernie McCook
Head Football Coach

“John and Pam have supported our football program by providing our family and friends with access to their amazing professional game day photos. If funds need to be raised, they are leaders in rounding up assistance. We are immensely thankful for their unmatched contributions to our Shepherd Rams Football program!”



Erin Lee ’23
Director of Game Day
Operations and Marketing

“John and Pam help shine a spotlight on everything that happens within Shepherd athletics, from photographing games and events to helping rally donations and emphasizing Ram Pride for student-athletes, alumni, and staff. We are so grateful for all the support they show Ram Nation.”



Eric Lewis ’95
Board of Governors
Director and SUAC
Board Member Emeritus

“Shepherd University owes [John and Pam] a great debt of gratitude. They spend countless hours taking professional photos that are priceless

for marketing our athletic teams. They are beloved by the families of our student-athletes and our ardent supporters.”



Kelly Colbert ’87
SUAC Board President

“John and Pam are true ambassadors of Shepherd University, and the engagement they drive through their efforts absolutely creates and fosters an environment of inclusivity that reaches past athletics. What they do and how they do it cannot be monetized. Without them, we would notice a tremendous void, and the experiences we all enjoy simply would not be the same.”



Chauncey Winbush ’95
Former Vice President
of Athletics

“The impact that John and Pam have had on Shepherd University and Shepherd athletics is immeasurable. Their dedication to promoting Shepherd has truly raised the overall brand of our department within the Ram Nation. This has impacted our ability to garner critical support for our programs. We are truly fortunate that they choose to share their amazing talents with the University.”



Pictured: (left) “Hail Mary” photo from Shepherd’s 2021 win over Kutztown in the NCAA Division II Super Region One final; (right) Alex Mantz rounds third base against Mansfield in 2021 as John Boyle snaps the action at second base.



Likewise, John’s work on his high school newspaper meant that he often carried a camera to every event. This habit served him nicely in a law enforcement career that required him to document everything during his traffic unit shifts.

“It actually translated to sports photography very well,” said John, who often needed to capture specific moments for evidence training exercises. “I know how to anticipate a play and get into position to photograph that moment.”

Being behind the camera for the past 15 years means that the couple have personally witnessed a lot of great moments for Shepherd athletics. In addition to the Kutztown “Hail Mary” play, the pair cite buzzer beaters for men’s and women’s basketball, Tyson Bagent setting the NCAA DII passing record during the 2023 season against East Stroudsburg, and many other individual achievements among their favorites. However, they both agree that the win against Grand Valley State in 2015 to secure a spot in the National Championship was the ultimate experience.

“Seeing the absolute joy of the players, fans, and coaches when we won that game was pretty incredible,” said Pam,

who slyly mentioned she may have sung a not-suitable-for-print rendition of “Going to Kansas City” as she walked past the opposing team. “That was something that has definitely stayed with me.”

Beyond the Camera

The Boyles’ passion for Shepherd ultimately comes from a place of a strong philanthropic spirit, and they consider themselves first and foremost volunteers. Their underlying mission is to bring awareness and funding to an athletic program trying to compete nationally against DII schools like Ferris State and Colorado School of Mines, both of which have much larger alumni bases.

Although they personally fund three scholarships awarded through the Shepherd Foundation and give generously to other projects, John and Pam utilize their platform to garner mass support for necessary upgrades to the University. Some of these grassroots campaigns include purchasing cold weather gear for the team to wear to Ferris State in 2021, post-season travel for the band and cheerleaders, and most recently, donations for a new scoreboard at Ram Stadium.

Ultimately, fan and alumni support — whether it be time, talents, or treasure — is the best way to be involved.

“Do something. You don’t have to be passive,” John said, noting that the couple doesn’t speak in an official capacity on behalf of Shepherd. “For a university this size, every little bit goes a long way. If everyone donated \$5 or \$10, it would make a tremendous impact. We know, because we’ve seen it.”

As their Facebook page continues to act like a “town hall” environment for all things Shepherd-related, the Boyles promise that they will also continue to serve as ambassadors through their photography and promotion of fundraising initiatives and events.

“Shepherd has a wonderful program,” said Pam, who praised the coaches and athletic department administrators for giving unprecedented access during game days. “We love being able to support in a way that gives back to what they’re trying to accomplish with their talented student-athletes. We really feel strongly about being able to contribute to such an amazing school.” ■

New scoreboard honors Allen and Sara Lueck

Sports fans will notice a new addition to the north end of Ram Stadium this season, with the installation of the Allen and Sara Lueck Scoreboard. The scoreboard will feature a video screen surrounded by a digital display of game details and will greatly enhance the spectator experience at games played in the Stadium.

This improvement to Ram Stadium was made possible through private donations contributed in memory of Sara Lueck and in honor of her husband, Allen, both 1967 graduates. As ardent football fans, the couple could often be seen in the stands cheering on their beloved Rams. In addition, they were dedicated supporters of both the Shepherd University Athletic Club and Ram Gridiron Club.

Total support for the scoreboard and its installation was raised by the Shepherd University Foundation through gifts from supporters who gave generously to honor a special couple who loved Shepherd students. We thank them for their kindness. ■



Pictured above left (l. to r.) are Steve Kitner; Presenting Sponsor Cindy Kitner, Jefferson Security Bank; President Mary J.C. Hendrix; Carmen Slater; Scarborough Society President Austin Slater; Samantha Colbert; and Presenting Sponsor Chris Colbert, United Bank. Not pictured are Presenting Sponsors Mike and Wendy Smith. (above right) A table set up during the Gala honored Sara Lueck, who was instrumental in helping to plan previous events.



2023 Scarborough Society Gala by Kristi Veach-Ross

The 2023 annual Scarborough Society Gala netted \$30,000 in vital funding for the Scarborough Library. This year’s gala, held on August 11 at the Bavarian Inn, embraced the science fiction novel and movie *2001: A Space Odyssey* by Arthur C. Clarke.

In addition to the theme, the 2023 gala was dedicated to the memory of Sara Lueck, who served on the Scarborough Society Board of Directors as both the secretary and the gala committee chair from 2002-2022. Along with her husband Allen, Sara served as a gala host for 20 years and was an integral part of the annual event’s success. ■

To explore photos from this year’s gala and more, visit shepherduniversityfoundation.org/galleries/.

Students in Shepherd University history class transcribe 17th century diary

by Cecelia Mason

Shepherd University students were able to step back to the 1600s through the diary of prominent New England minister and writer Cotton Mather through a collaboration with the Congregational Library & Archives, an independent library and archive in Boston, Massachusetts.

Dr. Benjamin Bankhurst, associate professor of history, tasked students in the spring 2023 Colonial America class with transcribing pages from a diary written by Mather, who influenced the Salem witch trials that took place from February 1692 to May 1693.

“Cotton Mather was a principle, if not the most important, New Englander at the time, and the diary the students transcribed was for the year 1692,” Ben said. “At points, Mather talks directly about what’s happening in Salem, and you can see his thinking change about it over time. He starts by really wrestling with what’s happening, kind of believing the early accusations, and then slowly, as the trials go on, he comes to the realization that it is perhaps not what he thought it was. The students went on that journey with him through transcription.”

Each student was required to read and transcribe a page from the diary and write a reflection essay describing their experience and what it made them think about the Salem witch trials.

“It was challenging because they wrestled with 17th-century English,” Ben said. “The handwriting is from 350 years ago, and there was not standardization for English, and Mather wrote some in shorthand — something modern-day students aren’t used to.”



Pictured (l. to r.) are Dr. Benjamin Bankhurst, associate professor of history; Emily Cole, history major, Mount Airy, Maryland; Andrew West, secondary education major, Carlisle, Pennsylvania; Paul Butler, history major, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; Tyler Carpenter, history major, Williamsport, Maryland; Victoria Asper, secondary education major, Loudoun County, Virginia; Gareth Cushman-Reynolds, history major, Hagerstown, Maryland; Keith Kuntz, secondary education major, Martinsburg, West Virginia; Mariah Ferreira-Perez, history major, Inwood, West Virginia; Shane Allen, history major, Giddings, Texas; Nick Feron, history major, Bowie, Maryland; and Emma Schnebly, political science major, Clear Springs, Maryland.

A pleasant surprise

“What surprised me is I enjoyed doing it,” said Victoria Asper, a secondary education major from Loudoun County, Virginia. “It was kind of like solving a puzzle. The way it’s written, the lettering doesn’t make sense, and there are Fs in places of Ss, and you have to kind of try and figure out what the characters actually mean.”

“One thing I found interesting was this is a personal journal, and a lot of them are not meant to be read,” said Tyler Carpenter, a history major from Williamsport, Maryland. “This guy was very exuberant and wanted this to be read by multiple people. You were able to see what his thought process was. He talked about an illness plaguing him. It was basically the witches cursed him. It put you in the aspect of a 17th-century preacher, which is what he was.”

Each student transcribed a different page, giving them a different perception of Cotton Mather in both his public and private life.

“What I transcribed was the beginning of a sermon,” Victoria said. “He wrote a hymn, and it was basically saying ‘you need to be faithful and grateful and reject the devil because it’s all around us.’ He was very fire and brimstone.”

The pages Nick Feron, a history major from Bowie, Maryland, and Andrew West, a secondary education major from Carlisle, Pennsylvania, transcribed also centered around Mather’s sermons.

“It seemed like he was taking notes on a

sermon he would give, and, in a lot of it, he was promoting a book he had written prior to the witch craze and saying, ‘here, look, I predicted these things prior to these things happening,’” Nick said. “It was like Cotton Mather was advertising the book that he had written before.”

“In the part I did, he was looking back on a sermon he had given,” Andrew said. “He was critiquing himself, and he noted what parts of the sermon the congregation understood and reacted to, and then another part he talked about, he didn’t say this, but you could kind of tell he was like, okay, I won’t talk about this again because nobody was paying attention.”

“Our students are unlocking these documents for the computer age,” Ben said. “Documents that would have languished on the shelf of a private library can now be read across the country, indeed across the world, because [the students] have gone through the effort of transcribing that material, which makes it searchable, which makes it available.”

The Congregational Library & Archives will eventually post the transcriptions, along with archival-quality photographs of the pages and the students’ bylines, on its webpage, www.congregationallibrary.org.

“The good news is that the New England Hidden Histories team was so pleased with our work that they have renewed our collaboration,” Ben said. “As such, we will continue to work on a couple of other rare Mather documents and all of the transcriptions will be uploaded together.” ■

THERE AND BACK AGAIN:

A Field Experience in Yellowstone and the Grand Tetons

Story and photos by Dr. Jeff Groff

An hour before sunrise on Tuesday, July 11, Dr. Zach Musselman and I met eight Shepherd University students in the parking lot behind Byrd Science Center to catch our shuttle to BWI airport. Several hours later, we were half a continent away in Salt Lake City, Utah. After retrieving our baggage and rental vehicles, making a quick stop for tacos and a not-so-quick stop for supplies, we were cruising north on interstate 15. To our right were snowy peaks of the Wasatch Range even though the ground temperature was in the nineties. To our left, suburbs of the city gave way to farms and occasional glimpses of the easterly-jutting fingers of the Great Salt Lake. Ahead of us was Idaho and our ultimate destination, Yellowstone National Park.

We had begun the ten-day field component of a course I teach on the greater Yellowstone area, including nearby Grand Teton National Park. Although Zach had been to Yellowstone numerous times before, including with students, this was his first time co-teaching a Yellowstone field experience as a Shepherd professor. Zach is a geologist, so I was thrilled to have his contributions.

The course takes an integrative approach to studying our nation’s first national park. Over the preceding seven weeks, the students had delved into diverse



Students pause to rest and enjoy the view during a day hike up Specimen Ridge in the Lamar Valley of Yellowstone.



Pictured: (left) Light showers fall on Maggie Hughes and Ann Martenot while traversing the Firehole River; (right) Sunrise at Artist Point on the South Rim of the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone River. Pictured (l. to r.) are Ann Martenot, Dr. Jeff Groff, Abigale Evers, Maggie Hughes, Eli Hall, Ruby Anderson, Brady Bayne, Marissa Mohn, Dr. Zach Musselman, and David (Weston) Reeves; (next page) Eli Hall during a day hike through the Lamar Valley of Yellowstone National Park.

topics such as the geology and hydrology of Yellowstone’s hydrothermal features, the ecological impact of wolf reintroduction on the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, and the conflicts between westward migrating settlers and native peoples that lived in and around the Yellowstone Plateau. Integrating content from traditionally separate subjects like geology, biology, and history is uncommon in higher education. However, in my view, it is the only way to gain a comprehensive understanding of most real-world phenomena, and it is certainly the ideal way to prepare students for a visit to Yellowstone. For example, understanding the dynamics of wolf reintroduction and humanity’s historical relationships with Yellowstone requires consideration of Yellowstone’s unique physical geography.

During the field experience, students were immersed in the topics they had been studying in the class. While each day was filled with more than can be summarized here, what follows are some highlights.

Day 1

Our destination on the first day was a group campsite in Caribou-Targhee National Forest in southern Idaho. After setting up camp, most of the group converged in the creek downhill from the campsite. With cool water around our feet, warm sun on our backs, and the rustling of cottonwood trees in the air, we resolved to immerse ourselves in as

many creeks, rivers, and lakes as possible during the trip. Some open-range cows on the hillside seemed to be lowing in approval of that idea.

Day 2

The following day, we continued on to Yellowstone but visited Quake Lake before entering the park. The lake was created by a 1959 earthquake and massive landslide that dammed the Madison River. After entering the park and setting up camp at Madison Junction, we drove to Gibbon Falls, a waterfall at the rim of the caldera formed during the last eruption of the Yellowstone supervolcano 640,000 years ago. In the late afternoon, we explored the boardwalks at Norris Geyser Basin, known for having the hottest hydrothermal features in the park. At Norris, we discovered two things: first, that mosquitoes would be a nuisance during our trip due to heavy winter snowfall and lingering standing water; second, that the long shadows and warm light of a setting sun beautifully complement Yellowstone’s hydrothermal features.

Day 3

Most of our third day was spent at the Upper Geyser Basin, home to some of the most famous hydrothermal features in the park including Old Faithful and Morning Glory Pool. Yellowstone has over 10,000 hydrothermal features, more than the rest of the world combined,

and the Upper Geyser Basin is the most concentrated collection of geysers in the world. Thermophilic microbial life gives springs like Morning Glory their vibrant colors. The varied hues result from distinct species that thrive at different temperatures. In 1966, Indiana University microbiologist Thomas Brock and graduate student Hudson Freeze collected samples from a microbial mat at Great Fountain Geyser in the Lower Geyser Basin. These samples led to the identification of a new species of thermophilic bacteria, *Thermus aquaticus*, which would later be found to possess a heat-tolerant variant of DNA polymerase. This discovery enabled the development of technology for rapidly copying DNA fragments, forming the foundation of modern molecular biology.

The Upper Geyser Basin held a surprise for us as well. We discovered that several members of the Nez Perce Tribe were presenting at the Yellowstone Tribal Heritage Center, located next to Old Faithful. They were generously sharing their knowledge of traditional foods. While the Nez Perce did not reside in Yellowstone year-round, they were known to forage and hunt across the western slopes of the Yellowstone Plateau. Two noteworthy events in their history mark the beginning and end of the story of western expansion and manifest destiny.

In 1805, the Nez Perce played a crucial role in aiding the Corps of Discovery led





Pictured: (left) Students breaking camp after a night in the back country, (l. to r.) Ann Martenot, Ruby Anderson, Maggie Hughes, Brady Bayne, and Eli Hall; (right) Maggie breaks for lunch near the top of Specimen Ridge.

by Lewis and Clark as they blazed a trail to the Pacific Ocean in the name of the fledgling American republic. Fast forward to 1877, when Chief Joseph led a band of 750 Nez Perce on a desperate journey to escape their reservation in central Idaho. For months, Chief Joseph and his followers outmaneuvered the army, covering over 1,000 miles, which even included a route through the newly established national park. Their ultimate destination was Canada, where they hoped to find refuge. However, their journey ended in capture just 40 miles from the border.

Day 4

Day four began with an excursion to the Lamar Valley in the northeastern corner of the park. This is the area where wolves were famously reintroduced to Yellowstone in 1995. The recovery of aspen and willow stands, freed from elk over browsing, is a testament to the cascading ecological effects of wolf reintroduction in Yellowstone. We embarked on a “moderately strenuous” hike up Specimen Ridge, rewarded with a spectacular view of bison herds, pronghorn “antelope,” and impressive fossilized redwood trees. These fossilized specimens, dating back 50 million years, give the ridge its name. Near the ridge’s summit, we heard a pack of wolves howling and yipping in the distance. We scanned the landscape but could not spot the pack. It was a thrilling sensation to experience wolves as an auditory presence within the vast landscape.

Day 5

The following day, we relocated our camp to Bridge Bay near Yellowstone

Lake and hiked the north rim of the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone River. The scenery here is famously portrayed in the epic painting by Thomas Moran displayed in the United States Capitol Building. The nine-foot-wide painting was based on Moran’s sketches and watercolors and William Henry Jackson’s photographs, collected during the 1871 expedition into the Yellowstone Plateau led by geologist Ferdinand Vandeveer Hayden. These visual works played a crucial role in convincing a skeptical public that the stories about Yellowstone were true and persuading Congress to designate it as a national park in 1872.

Day 6

On day six, we woke early to catch the sunrise in Hayden Valley. As the colors of dawn painted the sky, a thousand birds welcomed the day, and the valley’s morning mist receded to reveal pillars of hydrothermal steam, resembling smoke from hidden chimneys. Dawn in Yellowstone is like the birth of the world, and your heart yearns to stay in the moment. Nevertheless, we left Hayden Valley to revisit the canyon and Artist Point on the south rim before the crowds arrived. Yellowstone spans an enormous area, covering 63 miles north to south and 54 miles east to west. Nevertheless, the main attractions host throngs of visitors during the peak summer season, and, by mid-day, Artist Point would be jammed. However, with the sun just climbing above the mountains, we were the only ones there. Despite receiving over four million visitors annually, it does not require much effort to find solitude in Yellowstone. Just wake before



dawn, linger until sunset, or pick any trail and walk for five minutes.

In the afternoon, after a refreshing swim in Yellowstone Lake’s 52-degree waters, we ventured out along the east park entrance road, passing through land that burned in 2003. Charred lodgepole pine trunks covered the landscape, with many still standing. Free from the shade of the pines, the understory has been reborn as wildflower pastures teeming with animal and insect life. Young lodgepoles were regrowing, likely from seeds released from resin-bound cones opened by the wildfires’ heat. Fire ecology is an integral part of Yellowstone, and for the lodgepoles, fire is a crucial element of their life cycle. Grizzly bears are abundant in the regenerating forests, and we spotted one on our way to the Lake Butte Overlook. The overlook provided a panoramic view of the lake 600 feet below, with peaks of the Teton Range visible about 60 miles to the southeast through the atmospheric haze of the late afternoon. In between lies the Thorofare, the most remote area in the 48 contiguous states.

Day 7

The following day would be our last full day in Yellowstone, and we aimed to spend it in the backcountry. After breaking camp, packing our backpacks, and watching an informational video about backcountry safety and etiquette at the ranger station, we set off for the Freight Road Trailhead, not far from where Thomas Brock made his microbial discovery. The gray sky hinted at showers, which began shortly after

we started our hike. We paused to put on rain gear and continued to our destination in Imperial Meadows. A few hours later, the showers had subsided, replaced by blue skies and strong wind that made setting up camp a challenge. From our campsite, we could see the windswept gossamer veil of Fairy Falls to the southwest. The winds calmed by late afternoon, only to be replaced by biting flies. As the sun set, a bald eagle took a rest in a nearby tree, and we got some rest from the flies as they changed shifts with the mosquitos. Dowsed in insect repellent, we communed by the campfire, some of us lingering well after dark to gaze at the stars in the moonless sky, far removed from civilization.

Day 8

We awoke the next day to find a lone bison grazing on the outskirts of our camp. Our trail out of the backcountry took us past Fairy Falls and Grand Prismatic Spring. By late morning, the steam that often obscures Grand Prismatic had dissipated. Crowds of people gathered at the overlook, eager to snap selfies at the park’s most famous hot spring. Pushing through the crowds, I could not help but long for the solitude of the backcountry. We returned to our vehicles to begin a 65-mile drive out the south entrance of Yellowstone and on to Grand Teton National Park. Before long, all the passengers in my van were asleep, exhausted from the backcountry hike. To stay alert, I sipped an energy drink and thought of Truman Everts, the 54-year-old tax assessor from Montana who took part in an 1870 expedition into the Yellowstone

Plateau. He became separated from the main group somewhere in the dense lodgepole forests we were now passing south of Yellowstone Lake. He lost his horse and most of his belongings, endured harassment from mountain lions, sustained severe burns from hydrothermal vents, accidentally started a forest fire, and suffered frostbite from October snows. Thirty-seven days later, delirious and severely malnourished, he was found by two local mountain men and returned to Bozeman to share his harrowing tale in Scribner’s Monthly.

Our Yellowstone adventure had come to an end, but we still had two nights in Grand Teton National Park to ease our transition back to civilization. After Yellowstone, Grand Teton felt more civilized, offering creature comforts like cell service and daily showers. Our first stop, after checking in at Colter Bay Campground, was the pizzeria at Leek’s Marina on Jackson Lake. I can’t say whether Leek’s makes the best pizza in the world, but it certainly tastes that way after six days of camping in Yellowstone and a night in the backcountry. Following dinner, we headed to the Jackson Lake Lodge to witness the sunset behind the Teton Range.

The Tetons are among the youngest mountains in North America, with uplift beginning less than ten million years ago along a fault at the eastern edge of the mountains. However, the metamorphic granite forming the peaks, known as gneiss, is over two-and-a-half billion years old. Near the summit of Mount Moran lies my favorite geological curiosity in these mountains: a vertical black seam of diabase, formed nearly a billion years ago when the rock was still deep below the surface and magma intruded into a fissure. The diabase and gneiss peak is capped by 500-million-year-old sandstone, deposited when the region was at the edge of an ancient sea.

Day 9

The following day, we hiked around Jenny Lake at the base of the mountains, passing a black bear foraging in the dappled shade of a forest clearing. A moose and her calf grazed

nearby. We found respite in the cool mist of Hidden Falls and marveled at the view from Inspiration Point. Forgoing the return hike, we took a water taxi across the lake and enjoyed an afternoon swim in String Lake.

Day 10

On our last day, we began the journey back to Salt Lake City for our return trip home. Still, we aimed to squeeze more experiences into the day. We made stops at the visitor center in the town of Moose and the National Museum of Wildlife Art in Jackson. This museum’s collections include works by John James Audubon, Georgia O’Keeffe, and Andy Warhol, but my favorite works are by lesser-known artists such as Carl Rungius and Robert Kuhn. The sculpture garden features pieces from the Lost Bird Project, memorializing bird species that have gone extinct in modern times. Our final stop, after several hours on the highway through the ever-changing landscape of western Wyoming, was Fossil Butte National Monument. Arriving just half an hour before the visitor center closed, we were treated to fossilized remains of animals and plants dating back 50 million years, formed when Kemmerer, Wyoming, was an ancient lakebed.

Months have passed since we left Yellowstone and Grand Teton, but I hope that Yellowstone and Grand Teton never leave us. As our students resume their everyday lives, I hope the experience remains with them always. I hope it is a testament to the power of an integrative educational approach and the transformative impact of field experiences. Truly understanding the connections between the diverse subjects we explored requires immersing oneself in the dynamic landscapes of these iconic parks. I hope that this underscores the vital role of immersive field experiences in higher education, especially for environmental students. Bridging the divide between classroom instruction and the real world is not just something to value; it is something to which we need to be dedicated and is essential to nurture the passionate stewards our planet urgently needs. ■

Alumnus helps *regenerate* the Tabler Farm fields

by **Cecelia Mason**

As managers of the Agricultural Innovation Center at Tabler Farm work to convert a 10-acre field into an incubator site where small farmers can grow their businesses, they're relying on help from Paul Wilmoth '74, a member of the farm's advisory board. Paul is overseeing the revitalization of the field where incubator plots will be located using a technique called regenerative agriculture.

"It's a little bug I have. I've always wanted to improve the grounds and soils," Paul said. "This farm has been abused through the use of traditional farming methods for 50 years. The ground has been abused and has deteriorated. I thought they needed something to at least help them get started a little bit soil-wise."

Traditionally, farmers producing large fields of crops plow the ground at the end of the growing season. Paul said driving a tractor on fields compacts the soil, so when it rains, the ground washes away along with nutrients and any chemicals used.

Regenerative agriculture differs from traditional farming because at the end of the growing season, cover crops are planted. Paul said keeping cover crops on a field helps fertilize and aerate the soil.

"You want to put plants in that produce a lot of carbon and organic matter on top of the ground and a root system that creates water channels," he said. "When it rains, the water runs into the water channels instead of off the ground. That's one of the principles of

soil health—water infiltration. The more vegetation you have on top of the ground, the cooler the ground stays and the longer the water will stay."

At Tabler Farm, Paul planted spring oats and peas in early April. During the summer, he planted a variety of things including sunn hemp, buckwheat, sunflower, and mung peas.

"Each one of them has a different purpose," he said. "Some have roots that grow deep, others grow shallow. Some produce more green mass on top of the ground. The sunflowers and buckwheat will hopefully help pollinators."

In early to mid-September, crops such as turnups, radishes, cereal rye, and wheat go in.



Pictured: (top) Wilmoth points out vegetation that was planted on the field that provide nutrients and soil aeration; (bottom) This 10-acre field at Tabler Farm is being prepared through regenerative agriculture to house quarter- to half-acre plots for a business incubator project.

"They get big roots in the ground and that creates big cavities for water to go into, and it helps loosen the soil," he said.

By spring, there should be a good mat of greenery on the field that can be used as a mulch bed to support the incubator plots or whatever cash crops the farm wants to plant.

Paul grew up on a farm near Belington, West Virginia. As a young person, he wanted to get as far away as he could, so he jumped at the chance when Shepherd offered him a football scholarship. After graduating in 1974, he taught driver's education in Jefferson County and worked part time with a local building contractor to earn extra money. He left teaching after 17 years so he and a friend could start DL Lewis Construction, a custom homebuilding company. Paul met his wife, Pattie '73, at Shepherd. She taught family and consumer sciences in Jefferson County schools for about 25

years before retiring from teaching to work for the construction company.

Retirement from DL Lewis led Paul back to farming some of his family's land near Belington. He bought cattle and went to work revitalizing that land. His son, who has a degree in agricultural biochemistry, encouraged him to try regenerative agriculture—something Paul resisted at first.

"We tried it the first year, and it was amazing what happened to the ground," he said. "We did it for six years, and our fields are textbook. In four years, we became county farmer of the year by going to this. We reduced spray and fertilizer usage. We did totally grass-fed angus beef."

Paul enjoys giving back to his alma mater by volunteering his skills at Tabler Farm. He and Pattie are also involved with helping to renovate and care for Popodicon, the president's business residence. ■

Federal money allows for development of incubator farm project

Thanks to \$1.4 million in Congressionally Directed Spending from the U.S. Small Business Administration, Shepherd's Agricultural Innovation Center is moving forward to create a small business incubator space at its 158-acre Tabler Farm.

The incubator will be located on a 10-acre field just inside the farm's main entrance. The field will be divided into quarter- to half-acre plots where farmers with some experience can hone their skills and expand their businesses.

There will be a building where workshops can take place. Equipment such as a mushroom media mixer and bagger, essential oil extractor, cold storage, and freezer space will be available for farmers to rent for a small fee. The farm will have a tractor and implements available for incubator farmers to use as well.

West Virginia Senators Shelley Moore Capito and Joe Manchin secured the funding to make development of the incubator project possible. ■

Pictured: Paul Wilmoth '74 is volunteering his farming expertise to help prepare the field for planting crops.

Frank Arts Center lobby dedicated in Beard's memory

The Frank Arts Center lobby, along with the theater's gallery space, was updated with new flooring, paint, and artwork, thanks to private donors and funding from the President's Club.

Dedicated to Dr. Robert Scott Beard, former provost and vice president for academic affairs, who passed away unexpectedly on March 28, 2021, the unveiling ceremony was held before the 2023 Musical Showcase for Scholarships.

student he mentored and taught."

Beard, who was also a professor of music at Shepherd, is remembered for his energy, cheer, and dedication to Shepherd students.

"For 26 years, he inspired, encouraged, and uplifted students and faculty toward the single goal of making the university he loved a shining example to the world," President Hendrix said in her remarks at the dedication. "We remember and honor him here where he entertained and dazzled us year after year at the piano."

The Showcase, a School of Music fundraiser created under Beard's direction in 2017, has raised nearly \$250,000 to help music students attend Shepherd. ■

"I know he would be touched to know his legacy lives on in the Frank Center," said Alan Gibson, Beard's life partner of 30 years. "Scott's legacy also lives on through the lives of every



Members of the Phi Sigma Chi sorority who graduated in the 1950s and 1960s gathered at the Bavarian Inn July 12, 2023, for their annual luncheon. Phi Sigma Chi is what Shepherd's Sigma Sigma Sigma sorority chapter was called between 1948-1960. Pictured (seated, l. to r.) are Diane Steece '63, Regina Jones '54, Betty Lowe '52, Norma Siler '54, Clarissa Stemple '53. Standing, Peggy Booth '53, Emily Miller Waters '57, Barbara Knott Nickell '52, Reita Marks '56, and Althea Miller-Johnston '57.



1973 class members inducted into the Emeritus Club

Members of the class of 1973 were inducted into the Emeritus Club during a luncheon on May 4, 2023. The Emeritus Club is a constituency organization of the Shepherd Alumni Association and was created to encourage continued graduate involvement with the University. Alumni are inducted into the club on the 50th anniversary of their graduation during commencement week. Pictured (seated, l. to r.) are Jerry Horner, Susanne Horner, Karen Taylor Goldstein, Sharon Watson Adams, Teresa Stare Shakespeare, Judy Anderson Matlick, Joan Walker Pope, Pattie Wright Wilmoth, and Roxanne Roach Donaldson. Standing, Lowell Rogers, Mary Whittington Mansfield, Janis Willis Thomas, Judy Couchman Pittinger, Paul Brown, Roy Matlick, Mary Robison Petruski, Jackie Mears Lutgen, and Charles Welty.

Changes on East Loop

by Heidi Schlag

Over the summer, former residence halls Kenamond and Turner were bulldozed in Phase I of the East Loop Improvements Project, an initiative that, once complete, will be transformational for Shepherd University's campus. By the end of 2023, a new 90-space parking lot will open on the former Kenamond Hall site.

Phase II of the project will begin in early 2024 and will add ingress and egress from the commuter lot to North King Street. Additionally, a gateway arch will be erected between Stutzman-Slonaker and Snyder halls, where East/West High streets meet North King Street. These improvements, along with roadway and sidewalk improvements, will make Shepherd's east campus easier to navigate and more welcoming for our students and visitors.

The U.S. Senate Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing, and Urban Development specifically provided funding for Shepherd's transformational East Campus Improvements, including \$1.475 million for building remediation and demolition of Kenamond and Turner halls and \$936,000 for the East Campus Gateway entrance.

The campus community is profoundly grateful to Senators Shelley Moore Capito and Joe Manchin for their support. ■



EMPLOYEE GIVING AT SHEPHERD UNIVERSITY

“Students are always our number one priority here on campus. They inspire me the most to want to give.”

-Barbara Kandalis

by Kristi Veach-Ross

The faculty and staff of Shepherd University are at the center of student success. From the first application to graduation, Shepherd’s dedicated employees make a difference. In the 2022-23 academic year, 91 Shepherd employees made financial donations to various scholarships and awards, going above and beyond to ensure the continued success of the institution.

One driving factor behind employee giving is the powerful sense of community at Shepherd. This connectedness persists for several employees and alumni, including Theresa Smith, director of the Scarborough Library and access services librarian. Theresa graduated from Shepherd before working with the institution for 30 years. Throughout this time, she has experienced firsthand the commitment of the Shepherd community.

“It’s like a family,” Theresa said. “It’s a small institution, and people get to know each other so you just feel comfortable here. There’s a lot of caring for the students, and every office on campus has the students in mind first.”

This fellowship resonates across campus. Giving to the University as a member of the campus community is a unique and important opportunity to influence the present and future, and all gifts are important. Employee giving exemplifies the collective power of the University.

“It’s a worthwhile cause to try to support the University,” explained Theresa. “I think people don’t realize that just a

little bit helps if everyone gives.”

For Barbara Kandalis, coordinator for dual enrollment, the students themselves are the inspiration behind campus giving. Through the dual enrollment program, Barbara supports students as they earn credits and develop confidence while still in high school.

“Students are always our number one priority here on campus,” said Barbara. “They inspire me the most to want to give.”

Through all methods of giving, the support of Shepherd’s phenomenal faculty and staff persists throughout a student’s academic career. The Philanthropy at Shepherd University Society (PASS) is an organized annual fundraising effort that was established to help recognize the numerous contributions of Shepherd employees. Through faculty and staff giving, Shepherd employees PASS the future to the next generation of Rams.

“Whether you’re giving time, money, or support, any bit helps these students,” Barbara stated. “They are trying to navigate something new and making sure that all their needs are met is huge.” ■

Shepherd UNIVERSITY • Alumni Association •

ROAMING RAMS TRAVEL PROGRAM

Traveler Testimonials

“We had a delightful experience traveling with other Shepherd folks in 2019 to Scotland. Our group was small, and we were joined by a few other travelers, who also were traveling with the same agency that arranged the trip. Events and hotel accommodations were very well planned at each stop. This trip was our first planned by the Alumni Association and spurred our interest to return to the British Isles sometime in the future. A very delightful experience overall.”

—E. Hugh Browning III '70 and wife Bonnie Browning ,
Discover Scotland, 2019

“It was a wonderful tour. We loved the people on tour. The hotels were wonderful and I would not have thought to book some of the resorts on my own. The tour director was very knowledgeable and very on top of the plan.”

—Betty & Guy Rini, Painted Canyons of the West, 2021



Upcoming Trips

EUROPEAN CHRISTMAS MARKETS // DEPARTURE DATE: NOVEMBER 28, 2023

Highlights include Prague’s Christmas Markets, Prague Castle, choice on tour, train ride to Dresden, Dresden’s Christmas Markets, Vienna’s Christmas Markets, Schönbrunn Palace, Viennese candy workshop, Bratislava, locally hosted dinner, Budapest’s Christmas Markets, Matthias Church, and Fisherman’s Bastion.

ICONIC IRELAND AND ASHFORD CASTLE // DEPARTURE DATE: APRIL 21, 2024

Join other Shepherd University Alumni Association members on a voyage to explore iconic Ireland and Ashford Castle, the former home of earls, princes, and the famous Guinness family. See Connemara’s wild and windswept beauty, let the wind whip you up at the Cliffs of Moher, and admire 40 shades of green circling the Ring of Kerry.

COLORS OF SICILY // DEPARTURE DATE: JUNE 18, 2024

See Sicily’s vibrant palette of colors come alive. Sip local wine on the slopes of Mount Etna, wander the chic streets of Taormina, and meet the locals in colorful fishing villages. Top it all off with a sweet treat – all the Modican chocolate you can lay your hands on.

PARIS AND NORMANDY RIVER CRUISE // DEPARTURE DATE: AUGUST 11, 2024

Cruise from Paris through Normandy’s countryside, uncovering its many charms: Château de La Roche-Guyon, the medieval capital of Rouen, Monet’s beloved home in Giverny, and the famed Normandy beaches. Experience a different side of Northern France’s history with a tour of the majestic Palace of Versailles, once home to Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette.

See full itineraries and attend travel talks at our website: www.shepherd.edu/roaming-rams-alumni-travel-program

Women for Shepherd

Women's Expo Opportunity

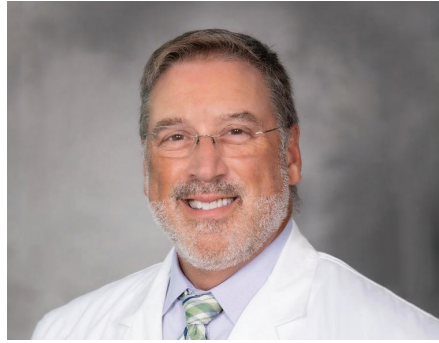
Vendor/Exhibitor Registration
Now Open!

Looking for alumnae who are small-business or nonprofit owners.

Booth fee is \$50 and includes one table, two chairs, and one ticket for the keynote lunch.

March 23, 2024

[Register Today!](#)



'86 Curtis Whitehair accepted the position of interim dean at the Charles E. Schmidt College of Medicine at Florida Atlantic University.



'92 Thomas Minney, director of The Nature Conservancy in West Virginia, purchased an almost 2,000-acre property in the Canaan Valley to preserve habitat.



'04 Tiffany Lawrence has been named a woman of distinction for 2023 by the Girl Scouts Nation's Capital.

SHEPHERD STUDENTS SUCCEED



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

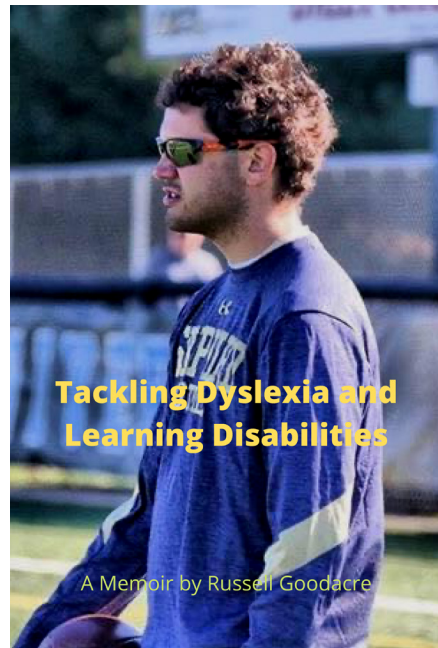


'58 Paul "Soupy" Hillyard was part of the first undefeated 1955 football team and has been a pillar to Shepherd ever since. He has been a part of the Shepherd Athletic Hall of Fame, Shepherd University Alumni Association, an Outstanding Alumnus, a charter member of the Ram Gridiron Club, and more. Soupy is one of our most loyal supporters.

'98 Tara Woolever has been named the new principal at James Wood Middle School in Frederick County, VA.



'77 Dr. Susan Batten returned to Ukraine for a second medical mission in May. She has served on multiple medical missions to Honduras, Guatemala, and Haiti since 2013.



'18 Russell Goodacre recently wrote a book called *Tackling Dyslexia and Learning Disabilities: A Memoir by Russell Goodacre*.



'98 Matt Lewis, a senior columnist for The Daily Beast, a MSNBC contributor, and host of the podcast "Matt Lewis and the News," is the author of *Filthy Rich Politicians: The Swamp Creatures, Latte Liberals, and Ruling-Class Elites Cashing in on America*.



'96 Dr. James M. Cherry serves as the associate director of research technologies; the chief of the Center for Human Immunology, Autoimmunity, and Inflammation; and the chief of Research Technology Branch with the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases. He currently serves on Shepherd's Board of Governors.



'03 Steven Schetrom, county commissioner from Hardy County, has announced his candidacy for treasurer of West Virginia.



'07 Captain Donald Hale, Jr. was recently promoted to major in the U.S. Air Force.



'08 Brandon Dennison, founder and CEO of Coalfield Development, is the new vice president of economic and workforce development at Marshall University.

'17 Jillian MacMaster is a Palestinian-American photographic artist that recently had an art exhibition, "The Herbalist: Cyanotype," showcased at Black Cat Studios in Frederick, MD.



'09 Jimmy Jackson was hired as an assistant coach/pitching coach with the University of Maryland.



'78 Dean Bartles attended the American Business Awards Ceremony held at the Marriott Marquis in Times Square on June 13, where he received a Gold Stevie Award for "Thought Leader of the Year — Government or Nonprofit."



'95 Eric Lewis has served as a partner in Ours Lawyer Lewis & Company PLLC (CPA firm) since 2007. He has also been chief financial officer of Civil-Military Innovation Institute, Inc (CMI2), a nonprofit defense contractor headquartered in Morgantown, West Virginia, since January 2021. He currently serves on Shepherd's Board of Governors.

CELEBRATING THE *Ram Fam*

Rose Tribby '14 & '17 got engaged to Charlie Clouse on April 13 in front of the Millennium Falcon, Galaxy Edge in Disney's Hollywood Studios in Orlando, FL.



Get involved!

SEE WHAT YOUR ALUMNI ASSOCIATION HAS TO OFFER

Regional Alumni Communities: Stay connected wherever you are!

Shepherd has active regional alumni groups in the Eastern Shore/Delaware, Southwest Florida, Washington, D.C., Maryland, and Virginia 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 Katie Swayne with interest or questions at kswayne@shepherd.edu or call 304-876-5524.

Update Your Information

Have you had a significant personal or professional event happen in your life? Maybe a new job or promotion at work? Have you been honored with an award? Did you recently get engaged, married, or have an addition to your family? We would love to share your happiness! Send us your news to be published in the Shepherd Students Succeed section of the bi-annual Shepherd University Magazine! Update your information at www.shepherd.edu/suaa/update-your-contact-information or email Katie Swayne at kswayne@shepherd.edu.

Sustaining Membership

New for 2023-2024: Young Alumni Membership! If you have graduated in the last 5 years (2019-2023), enjoy all the sustaining membership benefits at a discounted rate of \$35!

We encourage you to transform your benefit experience with your alumni association! You can purchase sustaining membership status and expand your benefits to receive the standard membership benefits, one homecoming football game ticket, one basketball game ticket, and two national benefits: TravelPerks platinum and Working Advantage. 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 trips, 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.

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 shepherd.meyerandassoc.com or contact our program administrator (Meyer and Associates) at 800-635-7801.

Alumni Association now accepting nominations for 2024-2025 Outstanding Alum, Finest Under 40 honorees



The Shepherd University Alumni Association is now taking nominations for the 2024-2025 Outstanding Alum 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 annual June meeting. Criteria and nomination forms can be found at www.shepherd.edu/suaa/alumni-recognition-programs. **All nominations are due by June 1, 2024.**

Join us during Homecoming Weekend on October 21 to celebrate the 2023-2024 award recipients!

Record number of new students arrive, dual enrollment program increases 62% over 2022

by Dana Costa

At a time when many colleges and universities are dealing with declining enrollment, Shepherd University is welcoming a record number of new students for fall 2023. This is the second consecutive year the University has posted an increase.

"We were pleased that Shepherd's enrollment uptick continues, especially as other institutions are feeling the effects of declining attendance," said Dr. Kelly Hart, vice president for enrollment management.

Shepherd's dual enrollment program is seeing a 62% increase in enrollment over 2022 and is thrilled to welcome more than 260 dual enrollment high school students to the Ram Family.

Students from Berkeley and Jefferson counties in West Virginia and Frederick and Washington counties in Maryland will earn college credits at Shepherd before receiving their high school diplomas.

"Our dual enrollment program gives high school students the confidence to be successful. Their on-campus experience allows them to be engaged in the college experience and eases their transition into college," said Barbara Kandalis, Shepherd's dual enrollment coordinator.

Shepherd also welcomed its largest incoming freshman class since 2018 during Convocation on August 18.

"Our entire campus community was excited to welcome our incoming class," Hart said, "and is eager to partner with them in their academic, co-curricular, and extra-curricular endeavors."

Hart said 71% of Shepherd's incoming class is from West Virginia, with the remainder coming from 12 states and four international countries.

Hart attributes Shepherd's enrollment success to the hard work of the dedicated admissions staff and campus community, as well as its well-earned academic reputation.

"Shepherd offers students an exceptional education, both in and outside of the classroom, and is an incredible value," she said. "We take great pride in getting to know our students, helping them to grow and develop, and preparing them for success after graduation." ■

AUTHOR ANN PANCAKE CELEBRATED

as Appalachian Heritage
Writer-in-Residence

by Heidi Schlag

Author Ann Pancake served as Shepherd University's Center for Appalachian Studies and Communities' 25th Appalachian Heritage Writer-in-Residence in September. An award-winning writer and educator, Pancake was also recognized with the Appalachian Heritage Writer's Award.

Pancake is the 2023 One Book One West Virginia author. Her novel *Strange as this Weather has Been* is this year's common reading book for the state.

Born in Richmond, Virginia, Pancake grew up in West Virginia before teaching both domestically and abroad. After stints in Washington, Pennsylvania, and North Carolina, she returned to West Virginia, where she lives and writes full-time. Her work portrays characters outside the mainstream and "othered," paired dramatically with the natural landscapes in which they attempt to operate. Pancake is concerned with the environment and social issues dealing with the underclass and diverse social and gender groups. Among her literary accolades are the Whiting Award (2003), Pushcart Prize (2004), Weatherford Award (2007), and Chaffin Award for Appalachian Literature (2010).

The Shepherd University Foundation was a principal partner in bringing Ann Pancake to Shepherd and to the state. Other partners were the West Virginia Humanities Council, the West Virginia Center for the Book, and the Shepherd University Center for Appalachian Studies and Communities. ■

Randy
Friend '02,
MBA '12



Hannah
Brumbaugh
'18, CSDA '20



Kahlen
Browning
'18, MBA '22



Daniel
Sweeney
'17



Meet the Shepherd University Alumni Association Board Officers

by Katie Swayne

Your Shepherd University Alumni Association (SUAA) has new officers for 2023-2024.

President - Randy Friend '02, MBA '12

Vice President - Hannah Brumbaugh '18, CSDA '20

Secretary - Kahlen Browning '18, MBA '22

Treasurer - Daniel Sweeney '17

We sat down with them as a group to ask some fun get-to-know-you questions about their time at Shepherd and why they are giving back to their alma mater.



Watch the full interview at
youtu.be/INfo4DG6LEk

Describe your Shepherd experience and a favorite Shepherd memory.

Daniel: I was very involved and active. I was in the accounting comprehensive program, which can be demanding, and I was a commuter who worked part time. I was also an officer of the Shepherd University Accounting Club for three years. A favorite memory I have is when the Accounting Club put on the annual alumni dinner for accounting students and alumni to come together and complain about tax season.

Hannah: My experience was a lot of fun. I lived in Turner Hall, which was just torn down, but a favorite memory I have is throwing a Bon Voyage party for Turner the year before they closed the hall. I was super involved with Student Government Association and Multicultural Leadership Team; I also worked on campus as a resident assistant. Shepherd is home for me.

Kahlen: I had a great experience! I talk about it to everyone. I'm not from around here, and I specifically chose Shepherd because no one else from my high school was coming here, and I could start fresh and be my own person. I got interested in Shepherd by participating in the Washington Gateway Academy in eighth grade. I met wonderful friends that I still talk to everyday

all over the country and overseas. My favorite experiences were working A-Team and random beach trips to Kent Island in the middle of the night when none of us could sleep. Also, Delta Sigma Pi, which is really great.

Randy: I've had a very lengthy experience at Shepherd as an undergrad, working here for 10 years, and then finishing my Master's degree, so there's a lot of great memories. One of my favorites was on Saturday mornings around 7:30 for game day, the Ram Band drumline would warm up at the top of the hill right above West Woods. It drove a lot of people crazy, but if you want to talk about getting ready for game day, that was just a really fun thing to experience!

What drew you to apply for service on the SUAA board of directors?

Hannah: I worked in the (alumni) office and loved it. Working with alumni was so much fun, and it was very different coming from a student affairs background and switching to the alumni side. Seeing the difference in engagement and annual giving, it was all really interesting to me. When I left Shepherd and took a new job, I started thinking about how I could stay engaged, so when I told the board I was leaving, in the same breath I said that I also submitted my application for the board. Now here I am.

Daniel: Shepherd is very good about connecting students and alumni, at least in my experience. I got both of my internships through alumni connections, one of which ended up being my career, first as a staff accountant and now a senior accountant. I want students to have the same opportunities I had with meeting future bosses and mentors and the people who will teach you the facts about life.

Randy: Shepherd has given me so many things...as a first-time college student from my family, to be able to go on this experience, to have met people I still know, and have had the great learning experiences of working

here and taking a master's program. Without Shepherd, I would not be where I am. Some people think it's just about finishing the four- or sometimes five-year degree and that's it, but there's still a connection beyond that. To me, it's about bringing people back home.

Kahlen: I really wanted to give back to a place that meant and still means so much to me. It truly has been one of the longest parts of my life. I've also worked on campus in admissions and it was a way I could get more involved with the school — recruit for the school and now hang out with the students I recruited after they graduate.

Why is it important to remain an active and engaged alum?

Randy: I would have to say because it's the connection back to your university. You have made Shepherd what it is today whether it was 60 years ago or two years ago, there's a legacy that remains. Bringing yourself back to that and being engaged, you're going to get a lot out of that. There's a connection that you really can't put words behind.

Daniel: For me, it's all about giving back and making sure that the Shepherd I know, love, enjoyed, and that gave me all of these opportunities, is still there. Now I can be on the other side of that for the next generation.

Hannah: I wasn't ready for college; I wasn't ready for the culture shock. I know that's something students still experience, but it's something Shepherd is really good at navigating. The staff and faculty are so supportive of the students, and they help build them into the future professionals and leaders that they are. Being able to give back as an alum is you saying "Thank You" for that support, but you're also coming back and engaging with students to help the next generation grow and evolve. It doesn't always have to be financial; time is the most important.

Kahlen: I also think you owe it to yourself because you already did the hard part. You got the degree, and now it's time to reconnect. It reminds you of

what got your life started. As a student, I truly appreciated when an alum came back and was willing to chat with me. It shows that what you're going through, this hard time in your life, really is worth it. Enjoy those benefits.

What's the best hashtag to use on social media: #RamProud or #OnceARamAlwaysARam?

Randy: I'm going to say both. More hashtags, more coverage.

Daniel: Short and sweet...#RamProud.

Hannah: I'm a #RamProud, personally. I think I was the one in the office who said it was a good idea. I like #OnceARamAlwaysARam. There are specific posts that each are good for.

Kahlen: I'm very much a #OnceARamAlwaysARam person. As a born and raised West Virginian, you always hear stuff like a Mountaineer is always a Mountaineer. It's a way to connect.

Rambo or J.C.?

Kahlen: Having been in the Rambo suit a few times, I would take J.C. any day. It's fun to have the little guy around campus.

Hannah: I'm a J.C. person. He's just so fluffy, and his little outfits are so cute.

Daniel: I love them both, but I'm going to go Rambo.

Randy: Since I got two degrees, I'm going to give two answers. Recently, with my family around, J.C. is really great, but the early 2000s Rambo was really magnificent. ■

If you're interested in learning more about joining the SUAA board of directors, contact Katie Swayne, director of alumni affairs, at kswayne@shepherd.edu or 304-876-5524, or visit our website at www.shepherd.edu/suaa/suaa-board-of-directors.



Ram Nation lost an ardent fan when **Sara Lueck '67** passed away on April 13, 2023. Sara attended what was then Shepherd College, where she met the love of her life, Allen Lueck. They married on August 7, 1971, and made Shepherdstown their home. Sara earned a degree in business education and a minor in library science from Shepherd. An educator for over fifty years, Sara began her career in Virginia until she found her work home at Jefferson High School. A staunch supporter of Shepherd, Sara was a lifetime member of the Shepherd University Alumni Association, a founding member of the Scarborough Society, WISH (Women Investing in Shepherd), Gridiron Club, President's Club, Phi Kappa Phi National Honors Society, and SUAC (Shepherd University Athletic Club). Sara also served as a board member of the Scarborough Gala Committee, chairing the event from 2002-2022. She was also an instrumental volunteer with the Hall of Fame banquets at Shepherd, received the Hall of Fame medallion, and was inducted into the Joseph P. McMurrin Society. Together, Sara and Allen were members of the Shepherd University Foundation, where they created five scholarships supporting the football program, donated a Steinway & Sons upright piano in memory of her sister, Drema, and contributed funds toward the purchase of Shepherd's ram mascot, J.C. Both Sara and Allen are recognized in the University's Honor Roll of Donors as part of the Shepherd Club and were named outstanding Alumni of the Year in 2013.

MaryAnn White Morgan '53 was a wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, musician, volunteer, and businesswoman. She graduated from Charles Town High School in 1949 and, after a year at McDaniel College, she transferred to Shepherd University (formerly Shepherd College) to earn her Bachelor of Arts in Music. While a student at Shepherd, she accompanied many other music majors for recitals and musicals, skipped class to practice the organ, and played for a weekly show on the university's radio station, WSHC. She was a member of Phi Sigma Chi Sorority, now Sigma Sigma Sigma, and maintained close contact with her sorority sisters. MaryAnn was married to Fire Chief D. Lee Morgan for over 47 years. MaryAnn was a member of the Young Homemakers Club (now CEOS), the Mecklenburg Garden Club, the Potomac Garden Club, and the Shepherdstown Chapter No. 155 Order of the Eastern Star. She served as District Director of West Virginia Garden Club, Inc., the Tour Director for the House and Garden Tour of Jefferson and Berkeley counties, and a member of the Board of Directors for the Millbrook Orchestra. MaryAnn worked as a church organist and choir director until her retirement in 2019 at age 87.



Glenn Edwards '74 worked as a driver education teacher at Jefferson High School for over 45 years. Glenn was a four-year member of the Shepherd men's tennis team from 1970-74. A three-time team captain, Glenn was a member of the undefeated (8-0) team of 1971. This earned him a 2022 spot in the Shepherd Athletic Hall of Fame. Glenn was an iconic community leader, developing both the tennis and swim sports programs at Jefferson County Memorial Park. He served as the first Jefferson County Parks and Recreation director in 1976 and coached the Hagerstown, Maryland, YMCA girl's swim team from 1978-1985. Glenn was a member of the Loyal Order of Moose Lodge #948 in Charles Town, West Virginia, and a member of the Charles Town Asbury United Methodist Church. In addition to his teaching career, he coached many community and high school sports teams where he befittingly earned his nickname "Coach."

BETTY JANE BOWMAN,
Boonsboro, MD, 12/19/2022

JOAN W. MCWHORTER,
Martinsburg, WV, 1/20/2023

JANE FRANCINA RISSLER,
Kabletown, WV, 2/21/2023

MARGARET MARY ALIA,
Arlington, VA, 3/3/2023

LAURA JEAN BURCH KENT,
Fort Worth, TX, 3/21/2023

BONNITA MORGAN KENNEY,
Falling Waters, WV, 4/5/2023

ALEXANDER KOSTRZEWSKY, JR.,
Waynesboro, PA, 4/8/2023

JOSEPH GAYLON WIMER,
Shepherdstown, WV, 4/19/2023

CHRISTINE PATRICIA JACKSON,
Martinsburg, WV, 4/22/2023

LA RITA BRALLIER JACOBS,
St. Petersburg, FL, 4/23/2023

HOWARD GRAYSON JAMES,
Shenandoah Junction, WV, 4/27/2023

DANA LYNN BRANSON,
Martinsburg, WV, 5/5/2023

JUDITH ANN WILLIAMS,
Martinsburg, WV, 5/6/2023

MARY EDNA CATHERINE MICHAEL SMITH,
Middletown, MD, 5/13/2023

JONAS OSMIN CHAMBERLIN III,
Leesburg, WV, 5/25/2023

WILLIAM HITT,
Ranson, WV, 5/27/23

WILTON LEE HOCKENSMITH,
Harpers Ferry, 6/13/2023

WILLIAM RUSSELL KOONTZ,
Frederick, MD, 6/14/2023

KERVIN WILSON MILLER,
Clearbrook, VA, 6/17/2023

JOHN EDWARD TRAXLER,
Martinsburg, WV, 6/18/2023

ALICIA ANN GLADHILL,
Frederick, MD, 6/19/2023

GARY DOUGLAS VAN SICKLER,
Winchester, VA, 6/22/2023

JERRY BUCEY,
Steubenville, OH, 6/23/2023

DEWAYNE ALLEN RAINES,
Cross Junction, VA, 7/2/2023

JESSICA MARIE SOWARDS,
North Augusta, SC, 7/2/2023

FLOYD HENRY MYERS,
Rock Hill, SC, 7/26/2023



Pictured: L.E.A.D.S. program attendees collaborating during a leadership workshop in the Storer Ballroom.

L.E.A.D.S. program builds *future leaders* by **Alison Mee**

Fifty-three new students at Shepherd University, with the support of 15 peer mentors, prepared for their transition to college through participation in the Shepherd L.E.A.D.S. program offered in partnership with the Stubblefield Institute for Civil Political Communications.

Shepherd L.E.A.D.S. stands for Leadership, Education, Action, Development, and Service. This new program was available to all new students — residential and commuter, first-year and transfer. The ten-day program gave students an opportunity to build connections, develop college success skills, and learn about effective communication.

Exploring community service with intention, the students spent one day working in small groups on campus and in the area. While some students pulled tires and debris out of local rivers, others helped the Shepherdstown Community Club spruce up buildings and sidewalks downtown. Other groups prepared the Ram Pantry and Ram Closet for the new school year. These programs provide food pantry items and both leisure and professional clothing to students, faculty, and staff who express a need for assistance.

At the end of the Day of Service, program participants gathered to reflect on the varied nature of community service and the needs of nonprofits.

“The goal of L.E.A.D.S. was to create the opportunity for the students to prepare themselves socially and mentally for the transition to college while also providing leadership skill building for the incoming students and peer mentors,” said Stubblefield Institute Program Manager Cindy Powers. “As one of our workshop leaders, Allison Jackson-Dyer, explained, their generation is ready to speak up for themselves and be heard at a younger age than previous generations. And to speak up, they need to skill up.”

Fifteen returning students with experience as campus leaders assisted the program, serving as mentors for the new students. The mentors received additional training before and during the program, with workshops focused

on developing their skills in supporting emerging student leaders.

The first-year students completed work toward First Year Experience (FYEX) courses. Hannah Williams-McNamee, assistant director for the Student Success Center, is one of three instructors for these courses. McNamee noted that the FYEX class gives students an opportunity to learn in a small group setting. Students can ask questions and observe that their fellow students are also starting college for the first time. Additional faculty and staff visit the classes to present on topics such as college writing and accessing campus resources.

During L.E.A.D.S., all participating students were able to complete several requirements toward the Stubblefield Institute's new Community Leadership and Civil Advocacy Certificate, which is offered in partnership with Shepherd. This 50-hour initial level of the certificate focuses on developing general leadership and civil discourse skills and exploring civic engagement. It is available to all Shepherd students at no additional cost and is appropriate for all majors. The second level of the certificate will launch in 2024. ■

Popodicon master bath gets renovation

by **Cecelia Mason**

Thanks to the generosity of Shepherd University's President's Club, several alumni, community members, and Friends of Popodicon (FOP) members, the master bathroom in Popodicon, the business residence of the President, is expanded and has a new look. The recently completed \$36,318 renovation includes a large tiled shower, new vanity sink and toilet, and marble tile flooring.

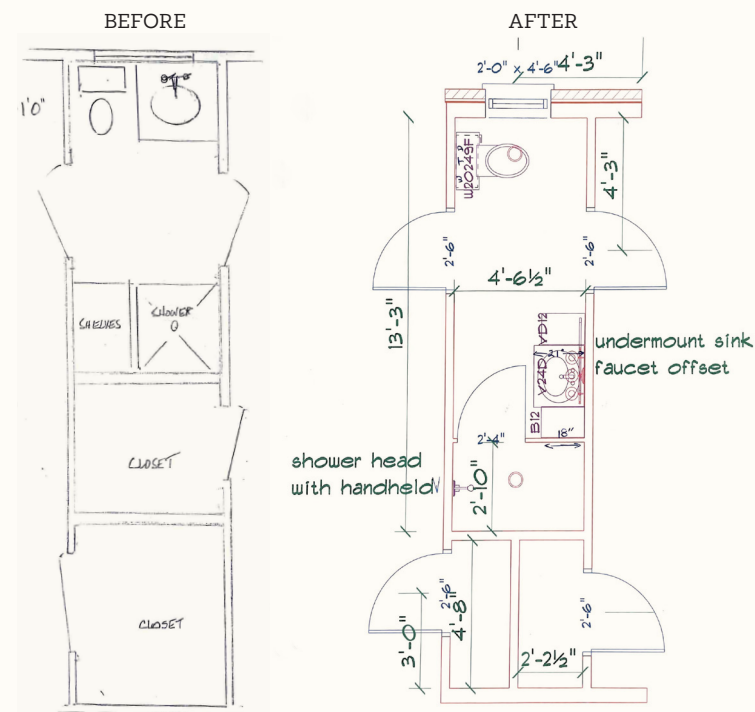
The jack-and-jill bathroom is on the second floor between the master bedroom and another bedroom that is used as a sitting room. Pattie Wilmoth, FOP member, says the original bathroom was tiny, outdated, and had to be enlarged by taking space from an adjacent closet. She is pleased that the basketweave tile floor matches the flooring in the bathroom on the main level of the house.

While FOP members collaborated to make decisions about what materials and colors to use, Pattie says the project would not have been possible without the generosity of several folks with ties to the University:

- Brian Humphreys '00, sales director, Kohler Co., personally donated more than \$2,136 in items, including the toilet, sink, showerhead, and hand shower.
- Jose Romero, owner of ING Granite, donated the granite vanity top and the labor cost to install it as well as the shower bench seat and door threshold. His ties to Shepherd run deep. His son Jaime Romero '13 earned a bachelor's degree in business; his daughter, Soljasmin Romero Webster, is a current business major; and his son-in-law, Dominik Webster '22, earned a biology degree.
- Nick Landon, Landon's Residential Services, performed the renovation at a discounted cost. Landon and his wife, Abby '17, were the first couple to be married at Popodicon after Shepherd began offering it as an event venue in 2017.
- John Miller, FOP member and interior designer, selected and purchased accessories such as lights and the mirror.
- Paul '74 and Pattie '73 Wilmoth donated drawer pulls and towels embroidered with Popodicon.
- Tom Martin, Creekside Woodworks, Shippensburg, Pennsylvania, made the vanity and two wall cabinets at a discounted price.

"I am very excited," Pattie said. "It's absolutely beautiful."

Friends of Popodicon has 27 members. They have been voluntarily painting the third floor in the house and fundraising for the next project—outdoor bathrooms. ■



Brenton Doyle

Having Impressive Rookie Season for the Colorado Rockies

by **Chip Ransom**

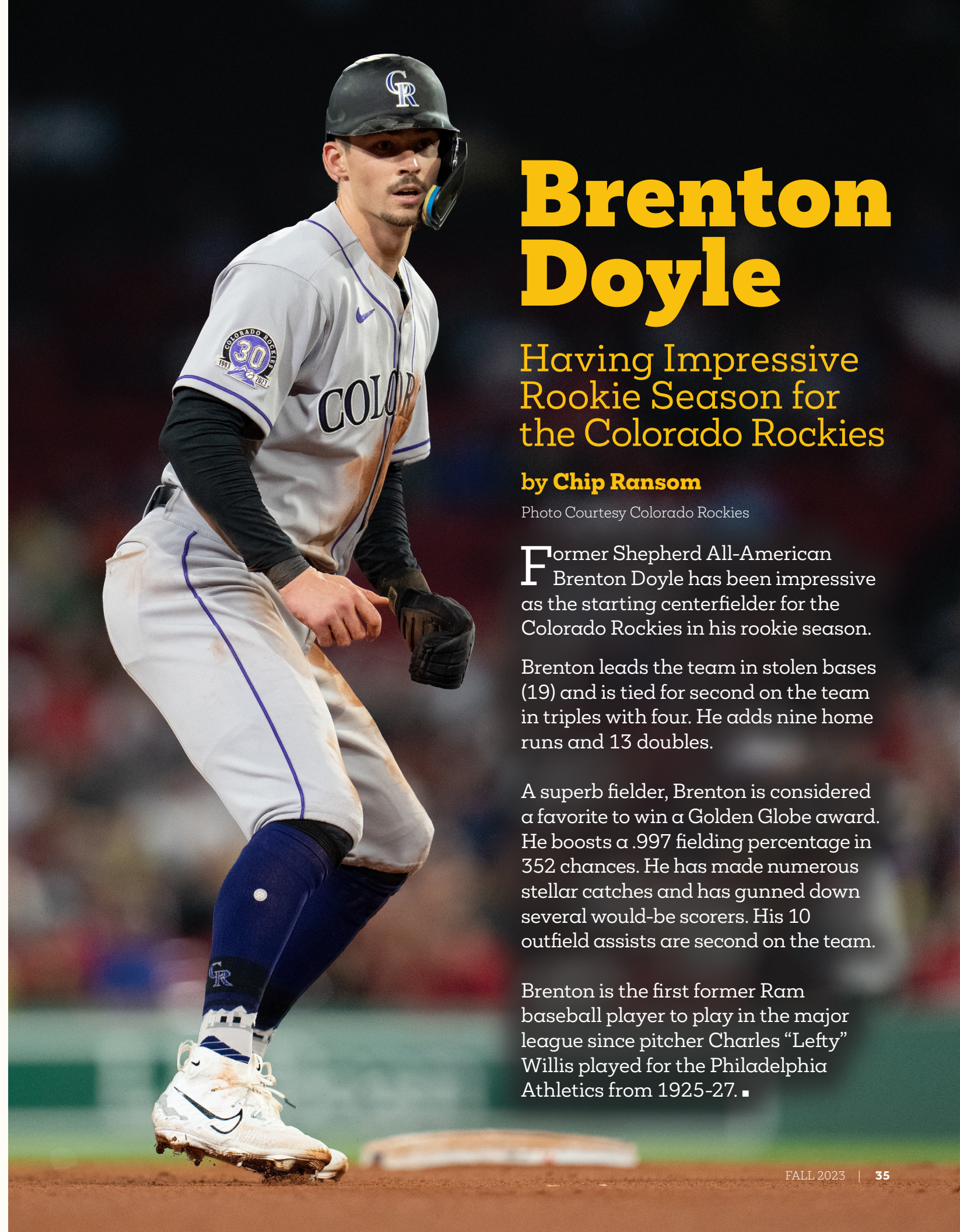
Photo Courtesy Colorado Rockies

Former Shepherd All-American Brenton Doyle has been impressive as the starting centerfielder for the Colorado Rockies in his rookie season.

Brenton leads the team in stolen bases (19) and is tied for second on the team in triples with four. He adds nine home runs and 13 doubles.

A superb fielder, Brenton is considered a favorite to win a Golden Globe award. He boasts a .997 fielding percentage in 352 chances. He has made numerous stellar catches and has gunned down several would-be scorers. His 10 outfield assists are second on the team.

Brenton is the first former Ram baseball player to play in the major league since pitcher Charles "Lefty" Willis played for the Philadelphia Athletics from 1925-27. ■





Purtell Becomes Three-Time Academic All-American

Graduate student third baseman Nicole Purtell (Centreville, Va./Centreville) of the softball team was named to the 2022-23 College Sports Communicators (CSC) Softball Academic All-America® team.

Nicole, a first-team selection, joins former football player Ricky Robinson as the only Shepherd student-athletes to become a three-time Academic All-Americans.

Nicole led the Rams with a .451 batting average with 78 hits in 173 at-bats. Her 119 total bases, 78 hits, 56 runs, and 19 doubles this season set Shepherd single-season marks. She added a team-best 47 runs batted in, two triples, and six home runs. Her 11 stolen bases and four sacrifice flies tied for the team lead.

Nicole paced the team in slugging percentage (.688), on-base percentage (.495), and OPS (1.183). She holds Shepherd career marks for most career runs scored (192), most total bases (386), and most hits (266). ■

SHEPHERD WOMEN'S LACROSSE TEAM, Players Honored by IWCLA

The Shepherd University women's lacrosse team and six of its team members have been honored by the Intercollegiate Women's Lacrosse Coaches Association (IWCLA). The team was named to the 2023 IWCLA Academic Honor Squad for posting a 3.2 grade point average or higher for the academic year.

Additionally, senior midfielder Molly McCook (Hagerstown, Md./South Hagerstown), junior midfielder Kaiya Edwards (Brogue, Pa./Red Lion), junior defender Tori Lassahn (Baltimore, Md./Concordia Prep), junior attacker Sam Lassahn (Baltimore, Md./Concordia Prep), junior midfielder Paige Stoner (Bel Air, Md./C. Milton Wright), and junior defender Summer Vorsteg (Bishopville, Md./Stephen Decatur) were named to the 2023 IWCLA Division II Academic Honor Roll. To be eligible for this honor, student-athletes must have reached junior status or higher with a cumulative grade point average of 3.5 or better.

Molly appeared and started in all 17 games. She recorded three goals and one assist for four points. She added 21 ground balls, 10 caused turnovers, and three draw controls.

Kaiya appeared and started in all 17 games. She recorded a team-best 35 goals and seven assists for a team-best 42 points. She added 33 draw controls, 32 ground balls, and 17 caused turnovers.

Sam appeared and started in 15 games. She recorded 10 goals and six assists for 16 points. She added 20 ground balls, 19 draw controls, and four caused turnovers.

Paige appeared and started in all 17 games. She recorded 19 goals and a team-best 19 assists for 38 points. She added team bests of 63 ground balls, 33 caused turnovers, and 73 draw controls.

Tori appeared and started in 15 games. She recorded 18 ground balls, seven caused turnovers, and a pair of draw controls.

Summer appeared in 16 games with 15 starts. She recorded 14 ground balls, nine caused turnovers, and one draw control. ■

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SECRET BAGENT MAN:

Quarterback discusses burgeoning NFL success at fundraising breakfast

Photo Courtesy John and Pam Boyle

by Chip Ransom

Former Shepherd All-American quarterback Tyson Bagent used an impressive preseason performance to gain a spot on the 53-man roster for the Chicago Bears.

The 2021 Harlon Hill Award winner completed 20-of-29 passes for 156 yards and rushed for a pair of scores in three preseason games for the Bears.

He was 4-of-5 for 37 yards in the preseason opener against the Tennessee Titans. Tyson added a 9-of-10 effort for 76 yards against the Indianapolis Colts. He also had two carries for four yards, including a two-yard touchdown run. Tyson was 7-of-14 for 43 yards in the final preseason game against the Buffalo Bills. He added four carries for 23 yards, including an eight-yard scoring run.

Tyson's stellar play drew the attention not only of the Chicago media but also the National Football League.

He has drawn comparisons to Kurt Warner and Brock Purdy. Additionally, he has been coined by the media as "Secret Bagent Man."

On September 2, Tyson returned to the Shepherd campus for a fundraising breakfast to benefit the TB2 Scholarship Fund, where he was greeted by an outpouring of support from family, friends, and fans.

He entertained a captive audience with stories ranging from his childhood at Shepherdstown Elementary School to his recent success with the Bears. He interacted with the audience, signing

autographs and posing for photographs, and earned admiring cheers when he rattled off an eighteen-word play call for a sweep.

"The amount of support from my family and Ram Nation is a big thing that got me through training camp and the preseason. I'm used to being surrounded by family and friends. It can be a tough, kind of lonely time. I had a lot of lonely studious nights trying to get the ridiculous, ridiculous NFL playbook down."

Tyson added his thoughts on adjusting to the NFL.

"The speed of the game that I'm playing in now...it wasn't a ridiculous adjustment from Shepherd to the NFL. I think the biggest thing is can you handle the mental overload that they are giving you and can you understand it."

Tyson joined former teammate Joey Fisher, a member of the practice squad for the Pittsburgh Steelers, in a pregame ceremony prior to the kickoff of Shepherd's season opener against Southern Connecticut State.

Tyson and Joey were entertained by a thrilling 27-26 come-from-behind win for the Rams as Seth Morgan teamed with Dustin Fisher on a 12-yard scoring pass with 23 seconds left in regulation to lift the Rams to a win. ■



Photo Courtesy Chicago Bears



Photo Courtesy John and Pam Boyle

BASEBALL

The Rams baseball team finished the season with a 24-20 mark with a 7-15 record in conference play. Three members of the Shepherd University baseball team have been named to the 2023 All-PSAC East Baseball Team as announced by the league office: Senior first baseman **Ross Mulhall** (Morgantown, W.Va./University/Gardner-Webb) garnered first team honors, while graduate student third baseman **Connor Dewees** (Red Lion, Pa./Red Lion) and redshirt-sophomore outfielder **Sam Daggers** (Galloway, N.J./Absegami/Rowan Gloucester CC) were second team selections.

Ross led the Rams with a .395 batting average with 66 hits in 167 at-bats. He also led the team in total bases (117), hits (66), runs batted in (51), doubles (18), and home runs (11). His 47 runs scored and 10 hit-by-pitch tied for the team lead. He was 8-of-9 in stolen bases.

Connor finished the season with a .348 batting average and 49 hits in 141 at-bats. He drove in 40 runs and scored 41. He added nine doubles, a triple, and 10 home runs. His 31 walks drawn tied for the team lead. He was 10-of-13 in stolen bases.

Sam recorded a .373 batting average with 63 hits in 169 at-bats over the season. He drove in 47 runs and scored 43. He added 15 doubles, a triple, and seven round-trippers. Daggers drew 20 walks and was hit-by-pitch seven times. He was a perfect 13-of-13 in stolen bases.

SOFTBALL

The Rams softball team recorded a 28-22 overall mark with an 11-19 record in conference play. Graduate student third baseman **Nicole Purtell** (Centreville, Va./Centreville) and junior second baseman **Caitlin Donnelly** (Newark, Del./Padua Academy) of the Shepherd University softball team have been named to the 2023 All-PSAC East Team. Nicole earned first team honors, while Donnelly was a second team choice.

Nicole, a three-time first team honoree, led the Rams with a .451 batting average with 78 hits in 173 at-bats. Her 119 total bases, 78 hits, 56 runs, and 19 doubles this season set Shepherd single-season marks. She added a team-best 47 runs batted in and six home runs. Her 11 stolen bases tied for the team lead.

Caitlin batted .363 with 49 hits in 135 at-bats over the season. She scored 30 runs and drove in 27. She added 11 doubles and one triple. She drew a team-high 25 walks and tied for the team lead in being hit-by-pitch with four. Caitlin's six sacrifices topped the team.

WOMEN'S LACROSSE

The women's lacrosse team posted a 5-12 overall mark with a 1-11 record in conference play. Junior midfielder **Kaiya Edwards** (Brogue, Pa./Red Lion) and sophomore defender **Sydney Witmer** (Damascus, Md./Damascus) were named to the 2023 All-PSAC East Women's Lacrosse Team. Kaiya and Sydney were second team selections.

Kaiya started in all 17 games for the Rams. She led the team in goals (35) and points (42). She added 33 draw controls, 32 ground balls, and 17 caused turnovers. She had nine multiple-goal games with seven games with three goals or more.

Sydney started in all 17 games for Shepherd. Her 19 caused turnovers were second on the team, while her 38 ground balls were third on the team. She also added five draw controls. Witmer earned PSAC East Defensive Athlete of the Week honors for April 11 after recording game-high efforts of four ground balls and six caused turnovers against Bloomsburg.

MEN'S TENNIS

The men's tennis team recorded a 3-11 overall record with an 0-6 mark in conference play. Shepherd had wins over Juniata (5-2), Stevenson (4-3), and Western New England (4-3).

WOMEN'S TENNIS

The women's tennis team finished with a 3-14 overall mark with a 1-8 record in conference play. The team posted wins over Juniata (7-0), Western New England (4-3), and East Stroudsburg (5-2).

MEN'S GOLF

The men's golf team had a second place finish in a 12-team field at the Cardinal Spring Classic to highlight the Spring season. Freshman **Trey Rios** (Denver, Pa./Cocalico) fired a two-day total of 143 to finish fourth to pace the Rams.

WOMEN'S GOLF

The women's golf team finished ninth in a 12-team field at the PSAC Championship. Freshman **Sara Veara** (Berkeley Springs, W.Va./Berkeley Springs) led the Rams as she fired an 84 to have a 169 total to tie for 12th place. The team's top finish in the spring season was a fourth-place finish at the Cardinal Spring Classic. Sara shot a two-round total of 157 to finish second to lead the Rams. Her round of 76 in the final round was the best round of the tournament.

Shepherd Adds Four to Athletic Hall of Fame

by Chip Ransom

Ricky Schmitt '07

Ricky (Chesapeake, Va./2003 graduate of Salem High School) was a four-year standout as a kicker/punter for the football team from 2003-06. Ricky set numerous Shepherd kicking records including career field goals (33), kick scoring points (250), most career extra points (151), most extra points in a season (50), most consecutive extra points (60), career extra point percentage (.926), and single season extra point percentage (1.000, 43-43). He still holds the mark for single season extra point percentage. He gained All-American Honors as a senior and was a three-time All-Region selection and a three-time first team All-WVIAC choice (twice at kicker and punter). He saw time with several NFL teams and had regular season action with the San Francisco 49ers. He later played in the Canadian Football League and was a key member of the 2013 Grey Cup Champion Saskatchewan Roughriders.

Nathan Minnich '12

Nathan (Middleville, Mich./2008 graduate of Waynesboro (Pa.) High School) was a four-year standout for the baseball team from 2009-12. Nathan was the unanimous NCAA II Baseball Player of the Year in 2012 as he topped NCAA II in on-base percentage (.645), slugging percentage (.980), runs batted in (72), and base on balls per game (1.19). He was a four-time All-WVIAC choice (three-time first team), a three-time All-Region, and a two-time Regional and WVIAC

The Shepherd University Athletic Hall of Fame inducted four new members at its annual induction ceremony September 30. Ricky Schmitt '07 (football), Nathan Minnich '12 (baseball), and Jamie Ritchie '06 (men's soccer) joined longtime assistant football coach Josh Kline '03 as the 37th class to be inducted. The "fantastic four" bring the total number of inductees in the Shepherd Athletic Hall of Fame to 166.

The quartet was also honored at the Shepherd-Shippensburg football game as part of Hall of Fame Weekend festivities.

Player of the Year. Nathan still holds the program's career marks for total bases (463), runs batted in (206), walks (136), home runs (58), and the single-season marks for batting average (.487), runs batted in (72), walks (62), and home runs (21, 2012). Nathan was drafted in the eighth round (271st overall pick) by the Boston Red Sox.

Jamie Ritchie '06

Jamie (Leesburg, Va./2002 graduate of Liberty High School) was a four-year standout for the men's soccer team from 2002-05. Jamie led the Rams to a 50-23-9 (.664) mark over his career. A three-time first team All-WVIAC choice, Ritchie holds the Shepherd marks for most goals in a season (19, 2002), most goals in a career (50), most assists in a game (4, vs. Columbia Union, 9-25-05), most assists in a season (19, 2005), most points in a season (43, 2002, 2005), and most points in a career (131). A two-time NSCAA All-Region selection, Jamie led the Rams to its finest season ever with a 17-2-2 mark and a final ranking of 22nd in 2005. A standout in the classroom, Jamie was named a McMurrin Scholar, Shepherd's highest academic honor.

Josh Kline '03

Josh (Hagerstown, Md./1998 graduate of Middletown High School) has been instrumental in the success of the football team as an assistant coach since 2003. Josh will enter

his 25th consecutive year as a part of the Shepherd football program. A defensive lineman for the Rams from 1998-2002, Josh was a part of two conference championship teams and was a team captain as a senior. As an assistant coach, Josh has been a vital part of 12 conference championships, 14 regional appearances, five Super Region One Champion teams, and a national championship appearance. He has mentored numerous players who have played professional football including Howard Jones and Tre Sullivan (NFL), and DeJuan Neal (XFL). He helped Deante Steele set numerous return records as specials teams coach, and as Shepherd's defensive coordinator, Josh helped the Rams top NCAA II in rushing defense from 2011-2014. He has also coached three conference Defensive Players of the Year. Josh was named Football Scoop Coordinator of the Year in 2013 and was runner-up in 2014.

Phil Porterfield

Additionally, longtime athletics supporter Phil Porterfield has been selected as the 2023 Medallion Award winner. Phil has been an invaluable assistant for the volleyball team for numerous years. He has also assisted with basketball, softball, and football game day operations. Additionally, Phil has been a generous contributor to Shepherd Athletics as evidenced by his creation of the Phil Porterfield Women's Volleyball Program Scholarship. ■

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