

# SHEPHERD

## UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE

VO. 32 | NO. 1 | WINTER 2025

# END OF AN ERA:

*President Mary J.C.  
Hendrix to Retire  
in June 2026*

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**Eric '95 &  
Joy Lewis '91**  
Alumni of the Year

**Ray Alvarez '62**  
honored as a  
Pillar of Shepherd

**Finest Under 40**  
winners celebrated  
at Homecoming





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WINTER 2025



During Homecoming week, we honored our great alumni. This year's Finest Under 40 winners (pictured left) included Daniel Sweeney, Alyssa Roush, Jacob Mellow, and Hannah Brumbaugh. A new honor was awarded to Ray Alvarez (pictured right) naming him a Pillar of Shepherd. **Read more about the Pillar of Shepherd on page 11.**

Eric and Joy Lewis  
Recognized as  
Alumni of the Year

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# BOARD LISTS

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**JUDITH VAN TOL WILSON** '74  
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# SHEPHERD

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**Cover photo**  
President Hendrix and J.C. the Ram  
on the field at Ram Stadium.

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER



The winter season is upon us—a time of reflection, gratitude, and giving.

As we embrace the final weeks of the year, the Shepherd University community continues to shine with purpose and promise. Our students, faculty, staff, and alumni demonstrate daily what it means to be part of the Ram Family: resilient, compassionate, and committed to excellence.

This season also brings opportunities to support the future of Shepherd. Thanks to your generosity, this year's Giving Tuesday was a tremendous success—raising more than \$22,000 and achieving a 39% increase in donor participation. Your commitment reflects the power of collective impact and ensures that our students have access to transformative experiences, innovative programs, and the support they need to thrive.

Looking ahead, we are excited to announce our **ONEShepherd Day of Giving on March 4, 2026**. This special day will unite our entire campus and extended community in a shared mission: to invest in the leaders and model citizens of tomorrow. Every contribution supports our students, faculty, and staff as they build a stronger, more vibrant Shepherd—one where opportunity and excellence go hand in hand.

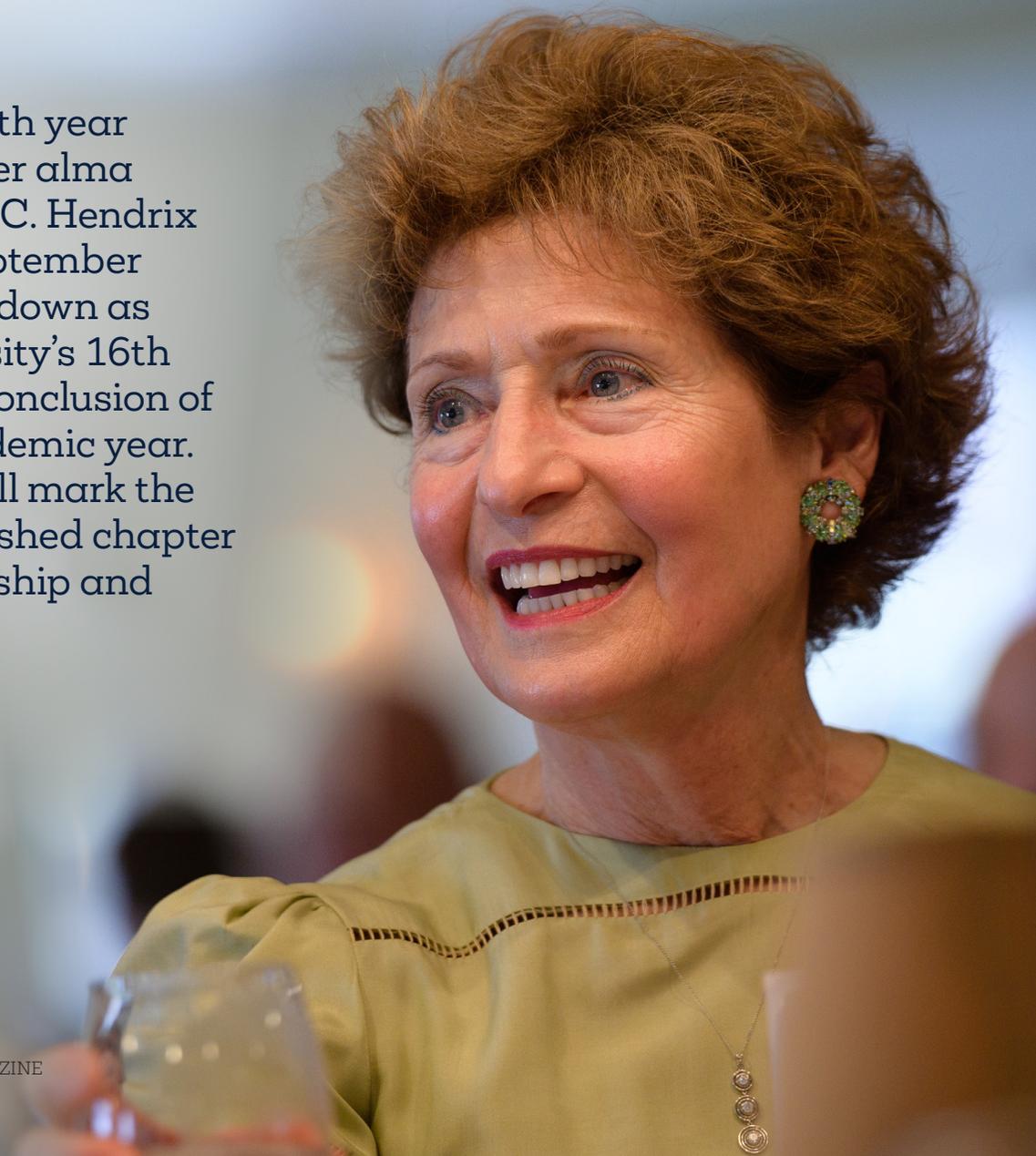
Thank you for being part of our journey. Your support empowers our students to dream boldly, achieve greatly, and carry the spirit of Shepherd into the world.

With heartfelt appreciation,  
Mary J.C. Hendrix, Ph.D.  
President, Shepherd University

# END OF AN ERA:

## *President Hendrix to Retire in June 2026*

Entering her 10th year of service to her alma mater, Dr. Mary J.C. Hendrix announced in September that she will step down as Shepherd University's 16th president at the conclusion of the 2025–26 academic year. Her retirement will mark the end of a distinguished chapter defined by leadership and commitment.



## Coming Home: A Shepherd Ram Leads Her University

When Hendrix accepted the presidency in 2016, it was more than a professional opportunity—it was a return home. As the first Shepherd alumna ever to lead the institution in its 144-year history, she brought her personal devotion to Shepherd’s mission.

Her inauguration on April 8, 2016, was both ceremonial and symbolic, a celebration of Shepherd’s past and its aspirations for the future. In her inaugural address, she invoked lessons from her days as a student—“service before self and excellence without arrogance”—and emphasized the importance of partnerships and creative collaboration as drivers of progress.

A 1974 graduate of Shepherd (then College), Hendrix says her undergraduate experience not only prepared her academically but also nurtured her sense of purpose and responsibility.

She carried those values into her presidency, setting an ambitious agenda to strengthen fundraising, expand community partnerships, foster interdisciplinary innovation,

and elevate Shepherd’s visibility regionally and nationally.

“I feel very fortunate to have had the opportunity to attend Shepherd—an experience that has shaped my entire career,” Hendrix reflected. “The faculty provided thoughtful mentorship. They cared about my future and encouraged me to engage in community service, which I found especially rewarding. It is inspiring to see our current faculty



## Hendrix Administration Accomplishments 2016-2025

- Created additional parking lots
- Restored Popodicon house and gardens
- Upgraded instructional spaces (still in progress)
- Established significant new centers and institutes
- Demolished several major buildings
- Constructed a major residential hall and a new dining and athletic facility
- Restructured the academic enterprise to meet marketplace demands
- Developed the Agricultural Innovation Center at Tabler Farm, including the newly built Agribusiness Center
- Accepted a 65-acre riverfront property in Berkeley County from Drs. Bill and Bonnie Stubblefield to establish an academic field station
- Established the Office of Sponsored Programs to facilitate the growth of the extramural grant portfolio, from \$5 million in 2016 to more than \$36 million today



carry on this rich tradition and provide the same compassionate support for today's students."

### **A Decade of Transformation**

During President Hendrix's tenure, Shepherd University experienced a period of transformation. The University reimagined or renovated key campus facilities, launched major initiatives, and expanded academic and research programs.

Projects such as the Agricultural Innovation Center at Tabler Farm

and a planned academic field station in Berkeley County are extending Shepherd's regional reach and strengthening its hands-on teaching capacity. The University's external grant and research funding has also grown significantly, advancing from roughly \$5 million to more than \$36 million during Hendrix's presidency.

Even as she drove progress, Hendrix learned the art of patience and persistence in higher-education leadership.

"When I first started at Shepherd, my favorite expression was 'fasten your seat belt.' While my intentions were to move strategically and quickly, I learned that there are multiple layers of rules and regulations that can mire even the best of plans," said Hendrix. "The next expression I had to adopt was 'stay calm and carry on.' We succeeded because we stayed focused, exercised patience, and had an outstanding leadership team of mission-oriented professionals—working collaboratively with faculty, staff, students, and our police officers."

## Ram Pride and Community Partnership

Throughout her presidency, Hendrix has often pointed to the people of Shepherd, what she calls the “Ram Family,” and the broader Shepherdstown community as the University’s greatest strength.

“The community we are fortunate to live in has helped us thrive in ways that are almost unimaginable,” she said. “The most remarkable volunteers have come forward to assist in projects ranging from renovating Popodicon and the Tabler Farm facilities to expanding the Ram Pantry and Ram Closet—and purchasing and caring for our recently retired mascot, J.C. the Ram, and his significant other, Lulu. We would not be where we are today without [our volunteers’] support and sage advice.”

Hendrix’s sense of pride reached new depths during one of the University’s most challenging periods—the COVID-19 pandemic.

“Without a doubt, working with our campus and community leaders to survive a pandemic was the most extraordinary experience in human resilience,” she remarked. “We were Ram tough, and I could not have been prouder of everyone who kept us safe. Our students learned real-life lessons in dealing with an international disaster, and they emerged stronger, more compassionate, and more appreciative for each healthy day.”

## Lifelong Learning and Innovation

For Hendrix, curiosity has always been at the heart of leadership. When asked which class she would take if she could return to Shepherd as a student, she chose one that perfectly embodies her commitment to exploration and growth.

“I wish I could have taken a course in ‘Creativity and Problem Solving,’ which is now part of the Innovation Minor in the College of Business and Recreation,” she said. “This innovative course, created by [Shepherd’s Dean

of the College of Business and Recreation] Dr. Ben Martz, has benefitted our students and community members.”

Her answer captures the essence of what she has worked to cultivate at Shepherd: a first-choice public University, rooted in the liberal arts and STEM, strengthened by creativity, service, and a readiness to embrace change.

## Looking Ahead: Hendrix’s Next Chapter

When she steps down in June 2026, Hendrix—who has authored more than 290 biomedical research publications and received numerous awards in the field—will recommit to her other passion as a medical researcher. She will continue serving on national health and science boards and chair the Scientific Advisory Board of TaiRx US, Inc., a pharmaceutical company advancing cancer therapies based on her laboratory’s patents.

“Networking with groups to train the next generation of leaders and innovators in these fields is an important commitment,” she explained. “I look forward to advancing our research discoveries in cancer therapeutics and diagnostics. It will be my privilege to partner with companies targeting aggressive cancers resistant to current therapies.”

As she prepares to pass the torch, Hendrix’s tenure stands as a defining era in Shepherd’s history, one marked by vision and steady progress. Her leadership has strengthened the University’s foundation, expanded its reach, and positioned it for the challenges and opportunities ahead.

“It has been the honor of a lifetime to serve as Shepherd’s president,” she said. ■



## DID YOU KNOW?

While attending Shepherd, Hendrix played tennis for the Rams!

Check out the photo below from the 1973 Shepherd yearbook, *Cohongoroota*.



For alumni Rich '14 & '17 and Sara '17 Goodman, graduation was just the beginning of their Shepherd University journey. Conveniently located between their hometowns of Martinsburg, West Virginia and Middletown, Maryland, Shepherd is where they forged lasting relationships, built meaningful connections and created memories that would shape their lives long after commencement. Now, as alumni, they continue to give back to the institution that helped shape them.

Rich applied only to Shepherd, crediting the Frada Fine Scholarship for making his education possible. A first-generation college student, he earned his bachelor's degree with a double major in psychology and biology, then went on to complete graduate degrees in College Student Development and Administration and Master of Arts in Teaching, all from Shepherd.

Sara's connection to Shepherd began in high school when she toured campus through her Teaching Academy program. Her love of Shepherdstown was instantaneous. The University offered both a small-town atmosphere and an exceptional college experience.

The two met through Alpha Phi Omega (APO), the national service fraternity, where a shared commitment to leadership and service helped form the foundation of their relationship. Today, that same spirit of giving back remains a cornerstone of how they live.

"Shepherd changed our lives," Rich and Sara shared. "We look back fondly at all our memories on-and-off campus—the friendships we formed, and the mentorship we received at every turn. We would not be who we are today without the opportunities, experiences, and community of Shepherd University. We're proud to support this formative and uplifting institution."

Now parents to twin boys, Rich and Sara still make time to stay connected with their alma mater and remain integral parts of the Ram Family. Both are active members of the Shepherd University

Alumni Association, and Rich serves on the board of directors for both the Alumni Association and the Shepherd University Foundation.

While life with twins keeps them busy, they also enjoy traveling and spending time with friends and family.

The couple added, "Knowing how impactful the people at Shepherd can be, our hope is that our support will be used to create opportunity where it's needed most—whether that be in supporting another first-generation student like us, funding an organization like APO, or showing appreciation to the people of Shepherd University that make it so special: the wonderful staff and faculty."



# *A Pillar of Shepherd:* **HONORING RAMON “RAY” ALVAREZ ’62**

For more than fifty years, Ramon “Ray” Alvarez ’62 has been a steadfast champion for Shepherd University and the local community. In recognition of his extraordinary service, Shepherd has named Alvarez the inaugural recipient of the Pillars of Shepherd Award.

The award celebrates alumni whose commitment to the University extends far beyond their years on campus. For Alvarez, the honor is a reflection of his generosity that began with a simple act of kindness that changed the course of his life.

As a young student, Alvarez received a scholarship from the Shepherd University Alumni Association, facilitated by the late Dr. Charles Printz ’40. That gift made it possible for Alvarez to continue his college education, and it has inspired a lifetime of giving in return.

“Throughout my professional career, I consistently dedicated time to volunteering within my communities,” said Alvarez, who noted that he and his wife, Mary, have always contributed a portion of their earnings to charitable causes. “Upon my retirement in the Shepherdstown area, I found it both appropriate and fulfilling to volunteer at Shepherd College [now University], wishing to give back in recognition of the outstanding education that contributed to my success in business.”

Alvarez’s dedication to his alma mater has left a lasting mark. His contributions include:

- Establishing four endowments through the Shepherd University Foundation
- Undertaking the responsibilities of Foundation president from 2006-2012
- Acting as vice-chair of the University’s Create Campaign, which raised more than \$26 million
- Establishing the Scarborough Society, the Foundation’s friends of the library organization, and holding the role of board president for 20 years
- Lending his expertise as a member of the Board of Governors from 2016-2021
- Serving on the steering committee for the Business 2020 campaign, which re-established a College of Business at Shepherd through gifts totaling over \$600,000

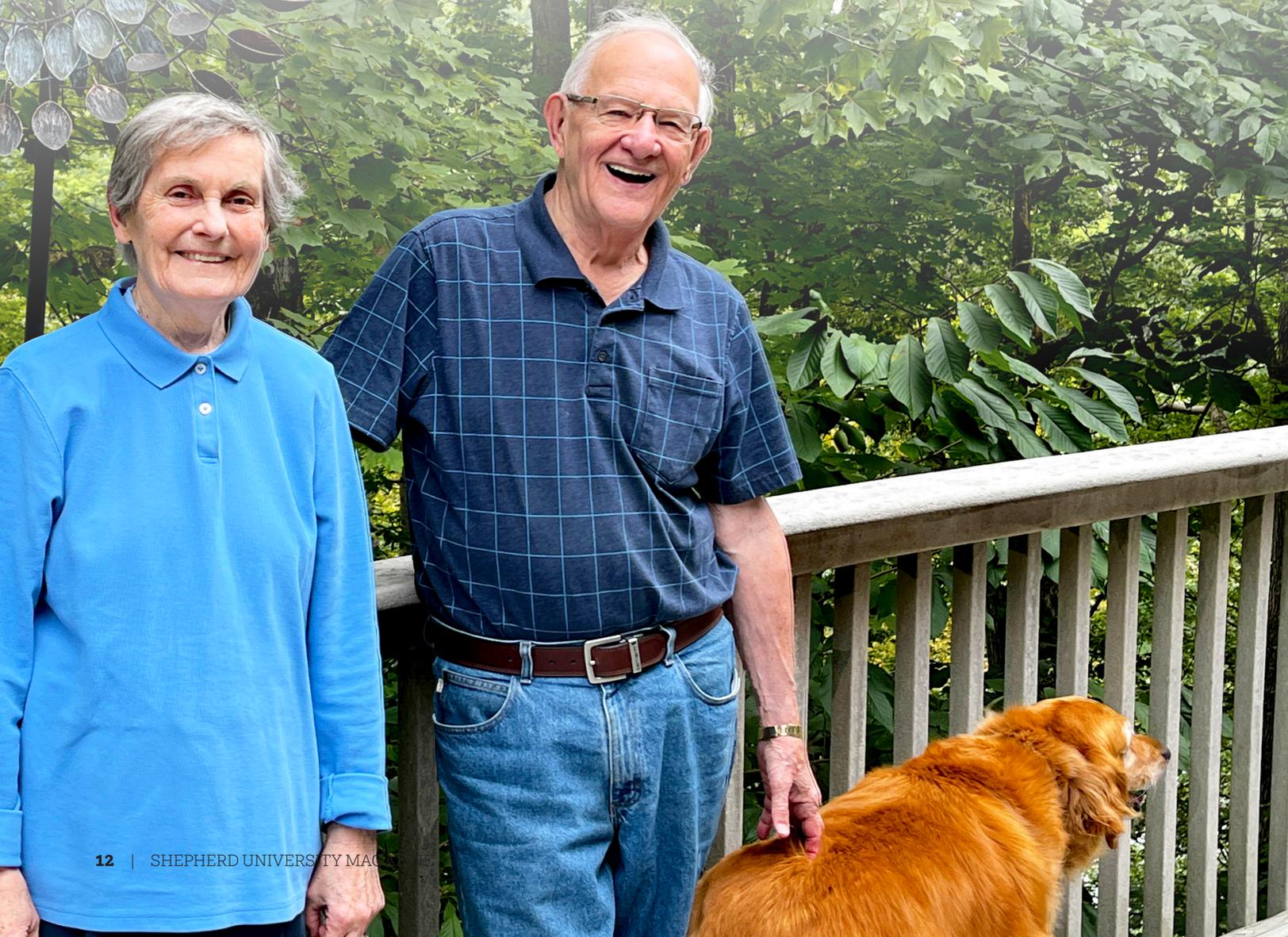
Today, Alvarez continues to lead by example. He supports Shepherd annually through leadership gifts to key areas like the Scarborough Society and the Last Dollar Fund, which provides crucial scholarship support for students with financial need. Beyond philanthropy, Alvarez serves as a mentor and advisor to Foundation staff, helping to shape policies and strategic initiatives.

Alvarez’s countless acts of generosity, leadership, and vision make him the perfect inaugural recipient of the Pillars of Shepherd.

“I urge our alumni and friends to step up and volunteer their time, talent, and treasure to this awesome University,” said Alvarez. “You will feel good about your efforts, and future generations of students will have the opportunity of a life-altering education.”



# Learning on the Potomac River: *The Stubblefields' Gift to Shepherd University*



**N**estled along the Potomac River in Berkeley County, West Virginia, a serene stretch of land—rich in biodiversity, history, and meaning—is set to become a cornerstone of business and environmental education at Shepherd University. Thanks to a visionary gift from Rear Admiral Dr. Bill Stubblefield, ret., and Dr. Bonnie McGregor Stubblefield, Shepherd will establish the Stubblefield Academic Field Station, a place of learning that embodies the couple's lifelong commitment to conservation, education, and civic engagement.

This gift is more than a transfer of property. It is a legacy—carefully cultivated over decades and now entrusted to Shepherd to inspire future generations.

### **A Life of Service and Scientific Discovery**

Bill and Bonnie Stubblefield are a couple defined by service. Their distinguished careers in public service and scientific research stand as testaments to what it means to dedicate one to the common good.

Bill Stubblefield served with distinction in the U.S. Navy before joining the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), where he rose to the rank of Rear Admiral. At NOAA, he directed national marine research initiatives, and his leadership connected the U.S. to global efforts in marine and atmospheric science.

Bonnie Stubblefield, equally as trailblazing, built her career at the U.S. Geological Survey. She became the first woman to serve as acting director of the agency—a historic milestone—and went on to lead major national programs in ecosystem science and earth resources. Her leadership shaped not only the direction of the agency but also the careers of countless scientists who followed in her footsteps.

Together, the Stubblefields' paths illustrate how personal conviction and professional excellence can align. United by a commitment to stewardship, education, and the power of institutions to serve the public good, they have carried these values into retirement, remaining active in public service, conservation, and philanthropy.

Academic Field Station, which will be a hub for research, education, and community engagement.

Importantly, the University has committed to preserving the character of the Stubblefields' home, honoring its sense of place and history. Mementos, photographs,

“This new field station will expand our ability to engage students in hands-on learning and research that connects them to the natural world and the community.”

### **A Home with Purpose**

The Stubblefields' donated property is imbued with memories, meaning, and mission. Originally purchased as a recreational retreat, the property gradually transformed into their permanent residence in the late 1990s and early 2000s as retirement got closer. Over the years, they expanded the home and adapted it to reflect their lives and values.

“Neither one of us wanted to have the property developed,” Bill Stubblefield said.

After exploring preservation options with several government agencies and nonprofits, they found the right partner in Shepherd University.

“Shepherd addressed both the concerns that we had: full utilization for a large sector of the community, plus the preservation and the security,” Bill Stubblefield explained.

### **A Vision for Education and Conservation**

A house, barn, garage, and boat shed sit on the Stubblefields' approximately 60 acres of wooded land, floodplain, and river access. Shepherd University will eventually add the Stubblefield

and collections gathered throughout the couple's careers and travels will remain as part of the fabric of the house and property.

“Shepherd made the suggestion that they would like to keep the flavor of the house,” Bill Stubblefield said. “We had not thought about that, but we immediately gravitated and resonated with it.”

### **A Legacy Already Rooted at Shepherd**

The Stubblefields' property donation is not their first noteworthy partnership with Shepherd University. In 2019, the couple established the Bonnie and Bill Stubblefield Institute for Civil Political Communications, which fosters respectful dialogue across political divides and has become a national model for organizations seeking to strengthen civic discourse.

“The generosity of Bill and Bonnie Stubblefield is transformational,” Shepherd President Mary J.C. Hendrix said. “Their vision and commitment to education, conservation, and civil discourse have already shaped the future of Shepherd University.”



While the institute and field station are separate initiatives, both reflect the Stubblefields' commitment to community and education and their trust and belief in Shepherd's mission and leadership.

"After we had established the Stubblefield Institute, we had a chance to get to know the leadership of Shepherd and President Hendrix," Bill Stubblefield said. "We developed not only a close friendship, but also a strong admiration for what they wanted to do and their abilities to make their long-term objectives come about."

### **Financial Stewardship and Sustainability**

The Stubblefields have ensured that their gift will not create a financial

burden for the University. Working with the Eastern West Virginia Community Foundation, they established dedicated accounts to support both the institute and the field station. The principal of these accounts will be preserved, while operating costs will be covered through interest.

"We have provided enough money that, with judicious utilization, it will not be a financial burden on the University," Bill Stubblefield said. "And [we have covered] the donation of equipment—so a lot of that's started up."

This careful financial planning reflects the couple's broader philosophy: generosity should empower institutions, not weigh them down.

### **A Place for Discovery and Reflection**

For Shepherd University faculty, students, and community partners, the Stubblefield Academic Field Station represents a new way of learning.

"This new field station will expand our ability to engage students in hands-on learning and research that connects them to the natural world and the community," Hendrix said.

Bonnie Stubblefield agreed, adding that the property's location along the Potomac River connects it to a much larger ecosystem beyond its 60 acres.

"I'm excited about the fact that students at the University will be able to do an awful lot of hands-on work,



especially at [the upper education] level. There's even a linkage to the Chesapeake Bay, and there's a tremendous amount of work being done—not only in the Bay Area but coming up the river," she said.

Dr. Ben Martz, dean of Shepherd University's College of Business and Recreation, echoed that sentiment. "We are energized by the possibilities this gift represents. It will serve as an incubator for innovation, reflection, collaboration, and leadership—for Shepherd students today and generations to come."

### **Expanding Horizons: Business, Science, and Civic Life**

"[The property] does feel very tranquil and peaceful and welcoming," Bill

Stubblefield said. "I think that's what the student would feel. But I think there's something else—they see this as an untapped opportunity for education, either research, long-term environmental observations, or even access to aquatics and wildlife."

While the Stubblefield Academic Field Station will naturally serve biology, environmental science, and conservation students, it has the potential to impact programs well beyond the sciences. Business majors might explore sustainable practices, land management, and community partnerships, while the site's unique setting also opens the door to interdisciplinary projects that bring together fields as diverse as political science, recreation, and civic engagement.

Just as the Stubblefields' own careers spanned multiple fields, the field station will encourage faculty and students alike to think across boundaries.

### **A Welcoming Venue for Future Generations**

With its tranquil setting, its rich biodiversity, and its strong foundation of financial sustainability, the Stubblefield Academic Field Station is poised to become a beacon of education and conservation.

It is a place where ideas will take root, where leaders will be shaped, and where the next generation will discover what it means to care for both community and environment. ■

SHEPHERD UNIVERSITY'S  
**2025 ALUMNI  
OF THE YEAR**





Shepherd University isn't just where Eric '95 and Joy '91 Lewis earned their degrees—it's where they began their shared commitment to community, leadership, and giving back.

This year, the couple was named Shepherd University's 2025 Alumni of the Year, an honor recognizing their lasting contributions to their alma mater and the broader Shepherd community.

Earlier this fall, the Lewises sat down to reflect on how Shepherd shaped their lives and how they're working to ensure future generations of Rams have the same opportunities to learn, lead, and serve.

### **"Shepherd is in our DNA"**

Few families embody Shepherd University's legacy quite like Eric and Joy. Their connection to the University

began long before their college days and has only deepened since.

"I don't remember life without Shepherd," said Eric Lewis, who grew up in Shepherdstown. "My dad graduated from Shepherd. His friends graduated from Shepherd. We went to football games as kids, and my friends and I snuck into Sara Cree Hall after hours to play basketball. I met my beautiful bride because of Shepherd, and I made lifelong friends at Shepherd. Shepherd is in my DNA."

For Joy Osbourn Lewis, Shepherd is equally woven into her family story. "I'm the third generation in my family to attend Shepherd," she said. "My grandfather, Coach Bill Osbourn, graduated in the 1940s. My aunt and uncle graduated in the late '60s and early '70s, and my Aunt Betty (of Betty's Restaurant) loved attending Shepherd sporting events, and her restaurant was a hangout for students."

Joy added, "Our kids even started school at the Shepherd College Nursery School. Just like Eric, Shepherd is in my DNA."

### **Giving Back Through Leadership and Philanthropy**

Ask Eric about his favorite Shepherd memory, and he doesn't hesitate. "The highlight of my time as a student was meeting Joy," he said. "Everything else after that is just a bonus."

Since graduating, Eric has invested deeply in Shepherd's future. A partner at OLL CPAs, he served on the Shepherd University Board of Governors from 2016 to 2024, including four years as chair. During that time, he played a pivotal role in securing millions in state funding for various projects at the University, including deferred maintenance grants, and most recently, for the West Campus Enhancement Project. He

now chairs the committee overseeing the design and construction of the new dining hall and athletics facility, along with other campus improvements.

Joy, a relator with Colliers International and Greentree Realty, has matched that commitment through her philanthropy and community leadership. She has hosted countless fundraising events at the couple's historic Shepherdstown farm, raising money not only for the University, but also for organizations such as Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of the Eastern Panhandle, Hospice of the Eastern Panhandle, the WVU Medicine Foundation, and the Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce.

Beyond that, Joy serves as a member of WISH (Women Investing in Shepherd), helping lead the restoration of the University's historic Little House. She is also active with the Shepherd University Foundation's Scarborough Society Gala Committee and Friends of Popodicon.

Together, Joy and Eric have helped raise significant funds for Shepherd

scholarships and initiatives. Most recently, the couple hosted the Farm-to-Table Dinner, a fundraiser that generated more than \$24,000 for Shepherd's Last Dollar Fund, which provides tuition assistance to students facing financial hardship.

### Investing in Shepherd's Future

Both Eric and Joy want to ensure the Shepherd tradition remains strong and that they inspire others to give back to their alma mater.

"My greatest hope is that Shepherd and its leadership will successfully navigate the challenges of the new era of higher education," Eric said. "It's a changing world, with the influence of AI and an impending national decline in [the number of] college[-aged] students."

He also offered advice for students and alumni.

"At Shepherd, I've long been an advocate for dreaming big and trying new things," Eric said. "Be entrepreneurial. You won't always be right, and you will sometimes fail, but if you try things and if you learn from your mistakes (and

don't make the same mistake twice), then good things are bound to happen."

Joy echoed his sentiment with a call to generosity.

"It doesn't matter where you came from or what your background is, your Shepherd degree can help you land a great job, and when you do, be sure to carve out time to give back to your community," she said. "We need to cultivate a culture of giving back to Shepherd because [it] has given so much to us."

She added, "Every dollar and every volunteer hour matter. Together, we can make a tremendous impact."

### A Legacy of Service

From hosting events and chairing boards to cheering for the Rams on the football field and basketball court, Eric and Joy exemplify what it means to be part of the Ram Fam—a blend of pride, service, and loyalty.

Their story is one of giving back and continuing to inspire others to do the same. ■

## Quick Facts:

## 2025 Outstanding Alumni of the Year

### DEGREES:

**Joy (Osborn) Lewis '91** — B.A. in Education

**Eric Lewis '95** — B.S. in Accounting, cum laude

### CAREERS:

**Joy** — Realtor, Colliers International & Greentree Realty

**Eric** — Partner, OLL CPAs; CFO, Civil-Military Innovation Institute

### SERVICE TO SHEPHERD:

**Eric** — Former Chair, Shepherd Board of Governors (2016–2024); helped secure \$61M in state funding including the \$30M West Campus Enhancement Project

**Joy** — Member of WISH, Scarborough Society Gala Committee, and Friends of Popodicon; helping with the Little House restoration project

**Together** — Hosted fundraising events at their home to raise much needed funds for Shepherd and community causes.

### COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP:

**Eric** — Jefferson Security Bank Director; appointed to the WV School Building Authority and Blue Ribbon Commission on Higher Education

**Joy** — Boards: Eastern Panhandle Transit Authority, WVU Hospitals East Foundation, Jefferson County CVB; Member, Rotary Club of Shepherdstown

### FAMILY LEGACY:

Parents to Chandler (Morgantown) and Maclaine (Austin)

Multi-generational Rams—Joy's grandfather Coach Bill Osborn graduated in the 1940s and Eric's father, Dave Lewis graduated in 1974.

Lifelong supporters of Ram Athletics and Shepherd community initiatives



## A Little House with Big History

The Florence Shaw Demonstration Cottage, affectionately known to Shepherdstown residents as the “Little House,” was built in 1929 as an experiential learning lab for Shepherd College education majors. For nearly a century, the Little House has sparked delight for children and adults alike.

Thanks to a \$26,750 grant from Women Investing in Shepherd (WISH), the Little House is getting some well-deserved care and attention. Renovations began in spring 2025 and include a new roof, fresh interior paint, and lead remediation work to help preserve the beloved landmark for years to come.

The Little House is set to reopen in 2026. Stay tuned for a peek inside!

### MAXIMIZE YOUR GIFT TO SHEPHERD!

Beginning in December, donors will have the option to cover the processing fees associated with their online gifts, allowing 100% of their contribution to directly support Shepherd’s mission.

To donate, visit [shepherduniversityfoundation.org/donate/](https://shepherduniversityfoundation.org/donate/)

# A LEGACY IN BLOOM:

## Honoring John Douglas Miller and the Friends of Popodicon

Popodicon, the historic mansion on Shepherd University's campus, has served as the home of the University President since its purchase in 1960. That changed in 2016, when Dr. Mary J.C. Hendrix became the first alumna to serve as president of Shepherd University and chose to reside in her family home just outside Shepherdstown. Recognizing the importance of maintaining the property, Dr. Hendrix quickly named Popodicon the business address of the president and worked with skilled volunteers to establish the Friends of Popodicon. This group of dedicated individuals has ensured that the home and grounds continue to flourish.



Today, anyone who visits Popodicon can sense the care and commitment poured into every detail of the property. Gardens burst with color, flowers climb trellises, and a sweeping lawn rolls up to the stately house. The home, with its blend of restored antiques and modern touches, serves as a bridge between the University's past and present.

Popodicon's beauty—and its vitality as both a home and a gathering place—has grown under the thoughtful leadership of John Douglas Miller, an accomplished interior designer and longtime supporter of Shepherd. Dr. Hendrix invited Miller to lend his expertise to Popodicon when the Friends group first formed in 2016. Though not an alumnus, he quickly embraced the role, leading projects that refreshed and preserved both the residence and its gardens.

“I wanted Popodicon to reflect the dignity of the University and the warmth of a home,” Miller said. “It has truly become a showplace for Shepherd, and I am proud of what we have accomplished together.”

Miller recently announced that he is stepping down as chair of the Friends group after nearly a decade, but he is confident that the shared vision and stewardship the group has established will carry on for years to come.

### **Building a Community**

What began as a small committee soon blossomed into a vibrant community. Volunteers with the Friends of Popodicon decorated the house for Christmas, hosted fundraisers, and solicited donations for furnishings and art. Miller's steady vision gave shape to that work, while his openness allowed members to contribute their unique talents.

“John always had a clear idea of what would serve the house best,





and he inspired all of us to see the possibilities,” said Peachy Staley, who is stepping in as co-chair of the Friends alongside Pattie Wilmoth. “Whether it’s arranging a flower vase or hanging the curtains, he has a vision that he works toward, and you don’t stop until

that vision is completed.”

Wilmoth agreed, adding that Miller’s example established a tone for the group’s efforts.

“He believed in doing things the right way,” she said. “The pride he took in

Popodicon became contagious.”

### **Restoring a Landmark**

Under Miller’s leadership, the Friends of Popodicon transformed the residence inside and out. Interiors were brightened with a lighter, more welcoming palette, and furnishings were acquired or restored to reflect the Colonial Revival style. Donors contributed Oriental rugs, antique furniture, and even a sparkling dining room chandelier—adding layers of elegance to the home.

The spirit of giving extended to the arts as well. In 2024, after a visit to Popodicon, renowned artists Lynn and Jennifer Boggess painted two

“He believed in doing things the right way. The pride he took in Popodicon became contagious.”



original works inspired by the home's gardens and presented them to President Hendrix. Their son, Evan Boggess, a Shepherd art lecturer, later added hummingbirds to the paintings, connecting the family's artistry with the home's vibrant landscape.

"I had been working on a painting that stalled, and when we saw the gardens and the hummingbirds visiting [Popodicon's] flowers, I knew that was the solution," Lynn Boggess recalled.

Beyond aesthetics, Miller also prioritized function. He oversaw kitchen renovations, enhanced public event spaces, and ensured the residence could better serve

University gatherings. Still, he is quick to credit others.

"It has always been a team effort," Miller emphasized. "The Friends group brought together volunteers with so many different talents, and their generosity made everything possible."

That support fueled key updates, including renovations to the main kitchen and primary bathroom. Wilmoth noted that Brian Humphreys, Sr., Director of Builder Sales for Kohler, was especially supportive, contributing plumbing fixtures and accessories to the renovation projects.

### **A Legacy That Lives On**

"The house is versatile," Miller reflected. "It can serve both as a public venue and a private home. I hope the next president sees the value in living here—it's a place that reflects the pride we all have in Shepherd."

Thanks to John Miller's vision and dedication to the Friends of Popodicon, this historic home is ready for the future—whether welcoming a family, hosting University celebrations, or standing as a proud symbol of Shepherd's history and hospitality. In every season, Popodicon continues to bloom with possibility. ■

# FROM WEST VIRGINIA TO THE WORLD:

Former Rams Hoopsters  
Take Their Game Overseas

by **David Driver**, *Special Consultant*





**A**bby Beeman, a star at Frankfort High in West Virginia, had three memorable years at Shepherd University that culminated in being an All-American at the Division II level.

Sydney Clayton, who played high school basketball in Washington, D.C., was a standout for five seasons with the Rams through 2022.

And Chase Paar, from Damascus, Maryland, had one stellar basketball season at Shepherd in 2024-25, earning recognition as the Male Athlete of the Year for all sports.

No matter where they came from or how long they spent with the Rams, the trio of hoopsters have something in common—their basketball careers have included stints at the pro level in Europe.

What has been the biggest transition for Paar, who began his pro career this season with a club in Austria?

“I think [the biggest transition] is still adjusting to being here and trying to stay in touch with people, with that time difference [to the East Coast]. Overall, the adjustment [is] trying

to figure out a routine and figure out what works,” said Paar, sitting at a restaurant in Graz in the southeast part of the country this fall.

Paar, a 6-foot-10 post player, flew from the United States to Europe in August to prepare for the season. “My first impression was: I am not sure how I’ve been awake for 26 hours and not tired,” he said. “Jet lag was real. Once that wore off, I looked around and realized it was a beautiful city and I could see myself here for the next seven or eight months. You’re seeing new things every day.”



Beeman is in her second season in Iceland but with a new club this year.

“There are waterfalls and mountains with snow caps,” Beeman said in a recent phone interview. “It is wonderful to see.”

Clayton, a former Rams teammate of Beeman, offered advice to the point guard before she headed to Iceland. She played briefly in Portugal and spent time competing in the Netherlands and Germany before returning home.

### Volcanic Activity

Every American who heads overseas to play pro basketball must adjust—on and off the court. The one that Beeman has made this year is off the charts.

The former Rams star plays for U.M.F. Grindavik, a club based in a small town in the southwest corner of the island nation.

But due to volcanic activity, her team is playing and living about 40 minutes away in the capital of Reykjavik. “They had to evacuate [the town] in 2023, and there are ongoing evacuations,” Beeman said.

When most Americans think of Iceland, cold weather is probably the first thing that comes to mind.

“That is what I thought, but it is not too bad. It was 50 degrees when I got here—the one big thing is the wind,” she said. “It is beautiful scenery. You want to take advantage of it.”

On the court, she was averaging nearly 20 points, nine assists, and seven rebounds per game in early November.

Beeman is the only American on her team, and as the case for most American men and women in Europe, they are expected to carry the scoring load. “I know there is an expectation of me,” she said. “I could lose my job [if production falters]. I have to deliver, especially on game days.”

Beeman credits her time at Shepherd for helping her get to Europe. “That

is a school that took a chance on me out of high school. It helped me tremendously,” she said.

### From Shepherdstown to Europe

Paar played at the Division I level for George Washington and Towson before transferring to Shepherd, where he had the chance to play alongside his brother at the same school their parents once attended.

Paar said of his season with the Rams, “I knew I wanted to play overseas. Getting [bigger] numbers was very important for me to do that—to get exposure and have a great last year of college basketball.”

Paar benefited from the Shepherd coaching staff as he made the transition to the pro ranks.

“I’m so happy Chase has gotten the opportunity to play professionally, and I know he will make the most of it,” said Shepherd Coach Justin Namolik. “I feel fortunate to have been part of his college basketball career. Not only is he a great basketball player, but he is also a great leader and teammate. He was able to form strong relationships with all the guys on our team, and he did such a great job of being patient with our young guys and helping with their development.”

Namolik added that coaching Paar held personal significance. “I strived to ensure his one year at Shepherd was a great experience,” he said. “His family’s ties to our program are important to me, and I didn’t want to let him or his family down.”

In his first pro game in Austria, Paar had 14 points and 13 boards in a win, and he was averaging 9.0 points and 8.8 rebounds in his first six outings.

Off the court, he lives in a historic city not far from the famous Alps.

“The first couple of weeks it was hard to find a routine,” added Paar, who has a sports management degree from Towson and is working on an MBA. “I

think I have ironed out a good routine with practice, lifting weights, eating, and getting good sleep.”

Beeman was the Sun Belt Conference Player of the Year in 2024 after transferring to Division I Marshall,

then began her pro career in Iceland that same year. She said it was a difficult decision to go overseas, mainly because she is close to her family.

Family members visited her in Iceland during her first two seasons there.

“I am close to my family. I knew I loved basketball, and it was worth a try. I am seeing a new part of the world and getting paid to play,” she said. ■

## 2025-26 Shepherd Men’s Basketball Schedule

*Home Games in Bold*

### DECEMBER

13	Seton Hill	1 pm
16	@ Slippery Rock	5 pm
20	Edinboro	3 pm

### JANUARY

2	@ Clarion	5 pm
3	@ Pitt-Johnstown	3 pm
7	<b>Lock Haven</b>	<b>7:30 pm</b>
10	@ East Stroudsburg	3 pm
15	@ Millersville	7:30 pm
17	<b>Mansfield</b>	<b>3 pm</b>
21	@ West Chester	7:30 pm
24	<b>Kutztown</b>	<b>3 pm</b>
27	<b>Shippensburg</b>	<b>7:30 pm</b>
29	@ Bloomsburg	7:30 pm
31	@ Lock Haven	3 pm

### FEBRUARY

7	<b>East Stroudsburg (Alumni Day)</b>	<b>3 pm</b>
11	<b>Millersville</b>	<b>7:30 pm</b>
14	@ Mansfield	3 pm
18	<b>West Chester</b>	<b>7:30 pm</b>
21	@ Kutztown	3 pm
25	@ Shippensburg	8 pm
28	<b>Bloomsburg (Senior Day)</b>	<b>3 pm</b>

## 2025-26 Shepherd Women’s Basketball Schedule

*Home Games in Bold*

### DECEMBER

16	@ Slippery Rock	3 pm
20	<b>Edinboro</b>	<b>1 pm</b>

### JANUARY

2	@ Clarion	3 pm
3	@ Pitt-Johnstown	1 pm
7	<b>Lock Haven</b>	<b>5:30 pm</b>
10	@ East Stroudsburg	1 pm
15	@ Millersville	5:30 pm
17	<b>Mansfield</b>	<b>1 pm</b>
21	@ West Chester	5:30 pm
24	<b>Kutztown</b>	<b>1 pm</b>
27	<b>Shippensburg</b>	<b>5:30 pm</b>
29	@ Bloomsburg	5:30 pm
31	@ Lock Haven	1 pm

### FEBRUARY

7	<b>East Stroudsburg (Alumni Weekend)</b>	<b>1 pm</b>
11	<b>Millersville</b>	<b>5:30 pm</b>
14	@ Mansfield	1 pm
18	<b>West Chester</b>	<b>5:30 pm</b>
21	@ Kutztown	1 pm
25	@ Shippensburg	6 pm
28	<b>Bloomsburg (Senior Day)</b>	<b>1 pm</b>



**'22 Emma Pedraza** has been promoted to wealth advisor at Potomac Bank (formerly Bank of Charles Town). A McMurrin Scholar and summa cum laude graduate, Emma recently earned her Certified Financial Planner designation. In her new role, she will manage client financial plans, estates, trusts, and portfolios.



**'07** On June 2, 2025, the West Union Bank Board of Directors appointed **Michael Malfregeot, MBA**, as president and chief executive officer. With over 20 years of experience in community banking, Michael previously served as the bank's executive vice president and senior lender.



**'24** Four alumni from the Class of 2024—**Kalin Gregg, Charlotte Puttock, Prema Baughman, and Sikara Sokel**—were commissioned by the Shepherdstown Community Club to create a mural on the back of the Morgan's Grove Park kitchen building. The vibrant artwork features storybook-inspired scenes and native Appalachian wildlife in bold, bright colors.

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# SHEPHERD STUDENTS

## SUCCEED



All announcements are self-submitted. Have news to share? Visit [www.shepherd.edu/SUAA/Alumni-Highlights](http://www.shepherd.edu/SUAA/Alumni-Highlights) or scan the code to submit your update.

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**'19 Ethan Waters** has been named coordinator of student activities at James Wood High School. He began his new role with Frederick County Public Schools on July 1, 2025.

**'69 Jim Auxer** has been named the recipient of the Hannah White Arnett Medal from The Pack Horse Ford Chapter. This honor is awarded by the Sons of the American Revolution General Society for unselfish devotion, tireless efforts, and support of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

**'06 Sandra "Sandy" Hamilton** was elected as Berkeley County's newest magistrate and was officially sworn into office on May 27, 2025.

**'81 Thomas Rohrer** has been appointed as the vice president of Bioconjugation by Veranova. Thomas brings over 40 years of experience in biological process development and clinical manufacturing, including 30 years of biological manufacturing. He has successfully delivered complex biological programs for both clinical and commercial applications. Thomas has also authored multiple publications and presentations on the manufacturing of Antibody Drug Conjugates and bioprocesses used for the manufacturing of biological therapeutics. Thomas received his bachelor's degree in biology from Shepherd.

**'99 Rita Merriner** transitions from her role as supervisor of school counselors and Section 504 to the role of principal of James Wood Middle School. Merriner joined Frederick County (Virginia) Public Schools in 2001 and a student support specialist and has served as an assistant principal at James Wood Middle School and assistant program administrator at Northwestern Regional Educational Programs. Rita received her bachelor's degree in social work from Shepherd.

**'75 Ron Combs** was inducted into the Shenandoah Apple Blossom Festival's Sports Hall of Fame on May 3, 2025. A three-year starting linebacker for the Rams, Ron also coached Shepherd's defensive backs in 1974.

**'06 David Bradshaw** has been inducted into the 13th class of the West Virginia Golf Hall of Fame. A standout on Shepherd's golf team from 2001–2004, David won the 2004 West Virginia Open as an amateur and has since claimed 11 more titles, competed in PGA Tour events, and earned numerous professional victories nationwide.



**'09 Fred Lymas**, Silver Spring, Maryland native, has been named head men's basketball coach at Shawnee State University in Portsmouth, Ohio. Lymas played his final three seasons at Shepherd as a starter and was team captain in his last two seasons.



**'10 Amelia Ferrell Knisely** earned second place in the 2025 Dan Rather Medals for News and Guts, a national journalism award. Her impactful reporting for West Virginia Watch on the state's overwhelmed foster care system earned her this prestigious recognition.

**'20 Owen Elliott** captured his first West Virginia Amateur title at the 106th edition of the golf tournament. Tied for the lead after 54 holes, Owen birdied three of his final six holes to finish at 7-under par and win by six strokes.

**'20 Fiona Tracey** had her poem, *I was on a plane going home*, published in the June 27 issue of *The Irish Independent*. She is also a finalist for both the Bournemouth Writing Prize and the Redline Poetry Prize.

**'10&'16 Derek Gallagher**

was recently featured in West Virginia Watch for his innovative approach to education. A social studies teacher at Martinsburg High School, Derek incorporates movement and wellness into his curriculum and advocates for educational reform across the region.

**'15 Lauren Gyurisn** received the Don Rohel Scholarship at Virginia Commonwealth University, where she serves as assistant director for operations and facilities and Region VI director. The scholarship supports professional development in college union management. The award is especially meaningful as Don Rohel's time at Shepherd overlapped with Lauren's as a student.



**'21 Jillian Sobrino** is the writer and director of a new short film currently in the early stages of production, *This Land is Cursed* – a story of girlhood, queerness, and identity in rural Appalachia. The film is still crowdfunding to complete production but is already backed by dozens of individual donors and is fiscally sponsored by Girl With a Lotus Foundation. Learn more about the film at <https://www.indiegogo.com/projects/this-land-is-cursed-a-coming-of-age-short-film/x/38681656#/>.



**'15** In Spring 2025, the Shepherd University Masterworks Chorale performed *Sprinkle Coal Dust On My Grave*, the doctoral thesis composition of **Walker Williams**. Walker earned his B.A. in music composition from Shepherd before completing graduate studies at the University of British Columbia.



**'91 Melinda Merk, JD**, was named one of the Top Estate Attorneys and Financial Advisers by Washington Magazine in its February 2025 issue.

**'25 Isabella "Bella" Cameron** has accepted a full-time position as marketing assistant at Skinner Accident and Injury Lawyers. During her time at Shepherd, Bella was honored with the 2025 Greek Award of Distinction for Leadership for her outstanding contributions to Alpha Sigma Tau.

## CELEBRATING THE *Ram Fam*

**Alyssa Roush '19 and '21, and Justin Jennings '20**  
Congratulations to Alyssa Roush '19 and '21, and Justin Jennings '20, on their engagement! The couple became engaged on June 21, 2024, and are planning a wedding ceremony for June 26, 2026. We wish them all the best as they prepare for their life together.



**Chris Bryant, M.A. '10 & '13, and Wed Rusty Lmuth**  
The Shepherd University Alumni Association is thrilled to announce the upcoming wedding of Chris Bryant, M.A. '10 & '13, to Rusty Lmuth. The couple celebrated their special day on October 18. We extend our warmest congratulations and best wishes to Chris and Rusty for a joyful future together.

# 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 Eastern Shore/Delaware, Southwest Florida, and the District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia (DMV) area, with more groups forming. Reach out to the ambassador nearest you to join or become an ambassador in your area. For more information, visit [www.shepherd.edu/suaa/regional-communities](http://www.shepherd.edu/suaa/regional-communities). Any questions can be directed to Katie Swayne at [kswayne@shepherd.edu](mailto:kswayne@shepherd.edu) or call 304-876-5524.

### Send in your story!

Have you had a significant event, personal or professional, 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 with the rest of the Ram Family in the bi-annual Shepherd University Magazine class notes! To send your information, visit [www.shepherd.edu/suaa/update-your-contact-information](http://www.shepherd.edu/suaa/update-your-contact-information) or email Katie Swayne, director of alumni affairs, at [kswayne@shepherd.edu](mailto:kswayne@shepherd.edu).

### Meyer and Associates - Alumni Insurance Program

The SUAA 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](http://shepherd.meyerandassoc.com) or contact our program administrator (Meyer and Associates) at 800-635-7801.

### Alumni Association: Now Accepting Award Nominations

The Shepherd University Alumni Association (SUAA) is always taking nominations for Outstanding Alum of the Year, and the next class of Finest Under 40. The Alumni Association Board of Directors votes on nominations during their annual meeting in June. All nominations are due by June 1. Criteria and nomination forms can be found at [www.shepherd.edu/suaa/alumni-recognition-programs](http://www.shepherd.edu/suaa/alumni-recognition-programs).



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



**E**lizabeth “Betty” Snyder Lowe ’52, a lifelong resident of Shepherdstown and a devoted alumna of Shepherd University, passed away on May 3, 2025, at the age of 95. A proud graduate of Shepherd College, Betty dedicated her life to education, community service, and historical preservation. She taught in several states and served as a substitute teacher in Jefferson County for over two decades. Alongside her husband, John, she co-founded Lowe Products Co., Inc., a local business that became a cornerstone of the Shepherdstown community. Betty was a passionate historian and genealogist, publishing several family history books and contributing to numerous local historical publications. Her service extended to many civic and educational organizations, including the Shepherd University Foundation Board, the Scarborough Society, and the Historic Shepherdstown Commission. She was honored with an Honorary Doctorate of

Humanities from Shepherd in 2007 and named Outstanding Alumna in 2014. A fourth-generation Shepherd graduate, Betty’s legacy is deeply woven into the fabric of the University and the town she loved. She is remembered for her tireless dedication, historical insight, and unwavering pride in her heritage. She is survived by her five children, 16 grandchildren, 15 great-grandchildren, and extended family.



**D**r. Stanley O. Ikenberry ’56, a nationally respected leader in higher education and a devoted supporter of Shepherd University, passed away peacefully on April 1, 2025, at his home in Boca Grande, Florida. He was 90. Born in Lamar, Colorado, and raised in Shepherdstown, Dr. Ikenberry earned his bachelor’s degree from Shepherd College in 1956 while his father served as president. He went on to earn a master’s and Ph.D. from Michigan State University, launching a distinguished career in academia.

Dr. Ikenberry served in leadership roles at West Virginia University and Penn State before becoming the 14th—and later interim—president of the University of Illinois. His visionary leadership helped shape the modern landscape of public higher education. He also served as president of the American Council on Education and held national roles influencing educational policy.

A generous benefactor to Shepherd, Dr. Ikenberry and his wife, Judy, established the Oliver S. Ikenberry Memorial Award, the Margaret Ikenberry Memorial Fund for the Popodicon Garden, and the Stanley O. Ikenberry Presidential Discretionary Endowment—initiatives that continue to enrich the campus community. He is survived by Judy, his wife of 66 years; their three sons; eight grandchildren; one great-grandson; and his sister, Jane Ikenberry Dorrier.



**E**lizabeth “Ellie” Anne Johnson ’15, a passionate advocate, leader, and friend to many, passed away unexpectedly on March 1, 2025, at the age of 31. Born in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and raised in West Virginia, Ellie graduated from Shepherd University with a degree in social work. During her time at Shepherd, she was a vibrant campus leader—serving as senior class president, a resident assistant, and an active member of student government, the Campus Program Board, and the Multicultural Leadership Team. Ellie’s commitment to social justice and community care shaped her career as a licensed therapist and child advocate. She worked tirelessly to support marginalized communities, including children in crisis, individuals experiencing homelessness, and members of the LGBTQ+ community. She also mentored young girls through Girls on the Run and spoke at local and national panels on child advocacy and

homelessness. Ellie is remembered for her compassion, humor, and unwavering belief in the dignity of every person. Her legacy lives on in the lives she touched and the causes she championed. She is survived by her wife, Molly; her parents, Don and Lori Johnson; her siblings, nieces, and extended family; and many dear friends and colleagues.

**JEAN MARIE DAVIS LORENZ ’46**  
Fallston, MD, 5/14/2025

**WILLIAM BOYD ROONEY, JR. ’55**  
Phoenix, AZ, 2/9/2025

**GEORGE ABNER HOTT ’57**  
Moorefield, WV, 7/24/2025

**JOHN DOUG STINE ’57**  
Hagerstown, MD, 5/27/2025

**JAMES “JIM” SAMUEL ARTZ ’58**  
Louisa, VA, 6/19/2025

**DARRELL “CINDERS” SNYDER ’58**  
Follansbee, WV, 4/13/2025

**NORMAN GRAYDEN LINEBURG ’59**  
Radford, VA, 7/17/2025

**HOMER R. PANKEY, ED.D. ’59**  
Thomasville, GA, 2/20/2025

**RONALD WAYNE TAYLOR ’61**  
Hagerstown, MD, 3/19/2025

**JOHN ARTHUR HILL ’65**  
Cambridge, MA, 2/10/2025

**PATRICIA E. (GORDON) HINE ’65**  
Mount Jackson, VA, 7/3/2025

**LARRY ALTON MURLIN ’66**  
Winchester, VA, 6/5/2025

**WILLIAM EUGENE (BILL) BAILEY ’71**  
Frederick County, VA, 3/9/2025

**MARK “MARKIE” A. MCHALE, JR. ’73**  
Hattiesburg, MS, 2/26/2025

**KIRK DOUGLAS SWAIM ’74**  
Frederick, PA, 4/25/2025

**JOHN WALKER, JR. ’74**  
Martinsburg, WV, 2/2/2025

**ANDREW DAVID MICHAEL ’75**  
Morgan County, WV, 4/15/2025

**MICHAEL ANDREW KNEISLY ’75**  
Martinsburg, WV, 3/14/2025

**BETTY JANE HOTT ’78**  
Moorefield, WV, 5/9/2025

**AVILA “VEEDIE” WILSON ’80**  
Winchester, VA, 4/29/2025

**RYAN BRETT ORNDORFF ’02**  
Big Mountain, WV, 4/14/2025

**JORDAN TAYLOR JAMES ’24**  
Harpers Ferry, WV, 2/21/2025

# MEET DR. JENNIFER MURRAY,

Director of Shepherd  
University's Civil  
War Center



When it comes to connecting the past to the present, few do it with as much passion and purpose as Dr. Jennifer Murray, the new director of Shepherd University's Civil War Center. A historian, author, and former National Park Service ranger, Murray brings both scholarly expertise and public history experience to one of Shepherd's most storied academic centers.

She recently shared her vision for engaging students and the community with Civil War history in ways that remain relevant today, drawing on Shepherd's unique location and resources.

### Engaging Students and the Community

The Civil War Center has a proud thirty-year legacy of excellence in research and public engagement. Murray is eager to continue that tradition by developing meaningful programs that connect Shepherd students and the broader community through hands-on learning and exploration.

For her, understanding the Civil War is a way to explore the forces that continue to shape the United States.

"No event in American history is more transformative or critical to our national identity than the Civil War," she explained. Quoting poet Robert Penn Warren, she added, "The Civil War is 'our felt history,' meaning that the Civil War is more than an event in our nation's past, but rather a moment deeply embedded in our collective consciousness and current identity."

As director, Murray aims to inspire a wide audience to continue learning and thinking critically about the Civil War and its lasting impact on the nation, shaping who Americans are, even more than 160 years later.

### From Gettysburg to Shepherdstown

Before joining Shepherd, Murray served as a professor, researcher, and author. She also spent years working with the National Park Service, including nine seasons at Gettysburg National Military Park and one at the C&O Canal National Historical Park, just across the river from Shepherd's campus.

"In fact, my interest in the Civil War grew during a summer internship at Gettysburg National Military Park," she recalled.

Those early experiences continue to guide her approach to the Civil War Center, particularly in promoting student opportunities.

"As someone whose Civil War career began because of an internship, I am excited to maintain and foster relationships with public history sites in the region and facilitate opportunities for Shepherd's students to engage with the rich, layered history that makes this area so special," said Murray.

### A Living Classroom

Shepherdstown's location offers an unparalleled advantage for Civil War study. "The Civil War Center is an institutional name, but also something of a metaphor," Murray said. "We're geographically in the center, the heartland, where so much of the Civil War activity in the Eastern Theater occurred."

She noted that many key Civil War sites are within easy reach of Shepherdstown. Antietam and Harpers Ferry are practically in the University's backyard. Just a few hours farther lie other pivotal battlefields such as Gettysburg, Fredericksburg, Monocacy, Spotsylvania, and Cold Harbor.

Murray explained that Shepherd's proximity to these historic landscapes offers "an invaluable resource for teaching and learning," a truth reflected in the growing interest in the center's programs. This year's annual fall seminar focused on *Antietam & Its Legacy* and drew a record number of participants from 18 states and

Canada—proof that the lessons of history resonate most powerfully when experienced on the historic landscape.

Building on that momentum, Murray is already shaping next year's fall seminar, *Forty Years of Triumph: A Retrospective of Preservation Success at Antietam and Beyond*, which will celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Save Historic Antietam Foundation and the modern Civil War battlefield preservation movement.

Murray is eager "to champion Civil War battlefield preservation in our region," adding, "Few Civil War conferences have devoted such attention to battlefield preservation, so this will be a wonderful opportunity to showcase the importance of these landscapes and the value in preserving such 'hallowed ground'" for future generations.

### Coming Full Circle

A Maryland native, Murray is excited to return to her roots.

When she's not at the Center, she and her husband can often be found walking their dog, Ringo, along the quiet trails of Antietam National Battlefield. It's a fitting pastime for someone who has devoted her career to studying and interpreting these historic landscapes.

Now back in familiar territory, Murray brings both expertise and enthusiasm to her new role. Shepherd University is delighted to welcome her home and looks forward to seeing the Civil War Center continue to strengthen the bridge between scholarship and public understanding, the classroom and the battlefield, and the lessons of the past and the challenges of today. ■



# *Annual Scarborough Society Gala*

Pictured above: Presenting sponsors for the Annual Scarborough Society Gala pose with Shepherd University president Dr. Mary J.C. Hendrix and Shepherd University Foundation Society President Austin Slater. (From l.): Austin and Carmen Slater; Cindy Kitner of Jefferson Security Bank; Mary J.C. Hendrix; and Samantha and Chris Colbert of United Bank. Not pictured is Presenting Sponsor Al Lueck.

The annual Scarborough Society Gala raised more than \$36,000 in support of Shepherd University's Scarborough Library. Held on August 8, 2025, at The Bavarian Inn, Resort & Brewing Company in Shepherdstown, the black-tie event welcomed 150 guests to a *Phantom of the Opera*-inspired masquerade, celebrating Gaston Leroux's 1910 tale of the Paris Opera House ghost.

# Eight Rams Named Easton/NFCA All-American Scholar-Athletes

Eight members of the Shepherd University softball team have been named 2024-25 Easton/NFCA All-America Scholar-Athletes. Senior shortstop Lexi Clatterbuck (Front Royal, Va./Skyline), senior third baseman Lauren Moore (Frederick, Md./Tuscarora/Trebecca Nazarene), senior pitcher Abby McBride (North East, Md./Rising Sun), sophomore first baseman Brenna Collis (Hedgesville, W.Va./Hedgesville), sophomore pitcher Madelayne Ruffner (Charles Town, W.Va./Washington), sophomore second baseman Cate Russian (Manassas, Va./Colgan), freshman catcher/outfielder Morgan Cave (Kearneysville, W.Va./Washington), and freshman outfielder Payton Weaver (Fairplay, Md./Williamsport) were honored.

Clatterbuck boasted a 3.78 grade point average for 2024-25 as a nursing major. She batted .299 with 44 hits in 147 at-bats and drove in 22 runs and scored 19. Clatterbuck added six doubles, a triple, and two home runs and was 6-of-7 in stolen bases.

Moore boasted a 3.67 grade point average in 2024-25 as an English major. She recently earned D2CCA All-American honors as she led the Rams with a .416 batting average with a team-best 74 hits in 178 at-bats. She drove in a team-best 51 runs and scored 31. She led the team in doubles (19) and home runs (12). Moore also topped the team in slugging percentage (.725) and OPS (1.187).

McBride boasted a 3.15 grade point average as a marketing major and appeared in 12 games with three starts. She posted an 0-4 mark with one complete game and fanned 13 in 21.2 innings.

Collis boasted a 4.00 grade point average in 2024-25 as a health promotion and exercise science major. She batted .333 with 47 hits in 147 at-bats and drove in 19 runs and scored 19. She added five doubles and six home runs. Collis drew 12 walks and was hit-by-pitch three times.

Ruffner boasted a 3.90 grade as an elementary education major and led the Rams in the circle with a 20-5 mark with two saves with a 0.83 ERA. She fanned a Shepherd single-season record 316 and walked 30. The All-American ranked first in the NCAA II rankings in strikeouts per seven innings (12.5), second in WHIP (0.71) and strikeouts-to-walk ratio (10.53), third in strikeouts (316), ERA (0.83), and hits allowed per seven innings (3.81).

Russian boasted a 3.96 grade point average in 2024-25 as an elementary education major. She batted .210 with 22 hits in 105 at-bats. She drove in 12 runs and scored 20. Russian added one double, two triples, and a home run and drew 17 walks to rank second on the team in that category.

Cave boasted a 3.59 grade point average as a health promotion and exercise science major. She batted .229 with eight hits in 35 at-bats, and added a pair of doubles and was 2-for-2 in stolen bases. Cave posted a .971 fielding percentage in 35 chances.

Weaver boasted a 3.90 grade point average as a therapeutic recreation major. She batted .250 with six hits in 24 at-bats, and drove in two runs and scored 10. Weaver was 2-of-5 in stolen base, and posted a .971 fielding percentage in 35 chances. ■

Eighteen Shepherd student-athletes garnered College Sports Communicators (CSC) Academic All-District honors in the spring.

## BASEBALL

Colin Ahart

## SOFTBALL

Brenna Collis  
Lauren Moore  
Cate Russian

## WOMEN'S LACROSSE

Sarah Fischer  
Kelsey King  
Paige Sullivan  
Campbell Vitek  
Sydney Witmer

## MEN'S GOLF

Joey Leisinger  
Trey Rios  
Nop Satjavitisarn

## WOMEN'S GOLF

Olivia Rosick

## WOMEN'S TENNIS

Allison Cronk

## MEN'S TENNIS

Khalid Alsadek  
Arka Genguly  
Fabian Telschow  
Curry Taylor



# SPRING RECAPS

## BASEBALL

The Rams rebounded from a slow start to post a 25-25 overall mark with a 12-16 record in conference play under first-year head coach Andrew Kowalo.

Senior third baseman Aidan Greaney (New Windsor, Md./South Carroll/Frederick Community College) and redshirt sophomore pitcher Daniel Quintana (Haymarket, Va./Paul VI/James Madison) of the Shepherd University baseball team have been named to the 2025 PSAC East All-Conference Team. Greaney and Quintana were both first team selections. Greaney appeared and started in 49 games for the Rams. He led the Rams in batting average (.333), hits (51), doubles (14), runs batted in (46), slugging percentage (.771), and OPS (1.170). His team-best 17 home runs led the PSAC. Greaney was a two-time PSAC East Athlete of the Week honoree. Quintana appeared in 13 games with 10 starts. He posted an 8-2 mark with a 2.97 ERA in 60.2 innings. Quintana fanned 31 and walked 19. He had one shutout and combined on two others. He was a two-time PSAC East Pitcher of the Week honoree.

Greaney and Quintana both earned All-Region honors. Greaney gained first team accolades on the D2CCA, NCBWA, and Rawlings teams. Quintana earned second team D2CCA and NCBWA honors

## SOFTBALL

The Rams posted a 28-25-1 record with a 19-12-1 record in conference. The Rams made their fourth NCAA II regional appearance under head coach Marissa Leslie.

Three members of the Shepherd University softball team have earned PSAC All-Conference honors. Sophomore pitcher

Madelayne Ruffner (Charles Town, W.Va./Washington), senior third baseman Lauren Moore (Frederick, Md./Tuscarora/Trevecca Nazarene), and sophomore catcher Madelyn Chambers (Stafford, Va./Brooke Point) gained first team honors. Additionally, Ruffner was named PSAC East Pitcher of the Year. Ruffner led the Rams in the circle with a 20-5 mark with two saves with a 0.83 ERA. She fanned a Shepherd single-season record 316 and walked 30. She ranked first in the NCAA II rankings in strikeouts per seven innings (12.5), second in WHIP (0.71) and strikeouts-to-walk ratio (10.53), third in strikeouts (316), and ERA (0.83), and in hits allowed per seven innings (3.81). Ruffner was a four-time PSAC East Pitcher of the Week honoree this season. Moore led the Rams with a .416 batting average with a team-best 74 hits in 178 at-bats. She has driven in a team-best 51 runs and scored 31. She topped the team in doubles (19) and home runs (12). She also topped the team in slugging percentage (.725) and OPS (1.187). Moore was named PSAC East Athlete of the Week for April 7. Chambers had a .390 batting average with 67 hits in 172 at-bats. She drove in 23 runs and scored a team-best 41. She added 10 doubles, a team-best six triples, and a home run. Chambers was also one of the team's leading base-stealing threats with seven steals in eight attempts.

The trio also gained All-Atlantic Region honors. Ruffner and Moore each gained first team honors on the NFCA and the D2CCA teams, while Chambers was a first team choice on the D2CCA team.

## WOMEN'S LACROSSE

The women's lacrosse team posted a 4-12 overall mark with a 1-11 record in conference play. A 16-8 win over Wheeling, an 18-14 triumph over Gannon, and a 15-6 win over Frostburg State highlighted the season.

Senior defender Sydney Witmer (Damascus, Md./Damascus) and senior attacker Kelsey King (Fallston, Md./Concordia Prep) were named to the 2025 All-PSAC East Women's Lacrosse Team. Witmer garnered first team honors while King was a second team selection. Witmer, a repeat first team selection and a second team choice in 2023, paced the Rams in ground balls (65) and caused turnovers (37). Her 65 ground balls set a Shepherd single-season mark, eclipsing the previous record of 63 set by Paige Stoner in 2023. Witmer's 47 draw controls were second on the team. She was selected as PSAC East Defensive Player of the Week on Feb. 26. Her 151 career ground balls rank her fourth on the Shepherd all-time list, while her 88 career caused turnovers also rank her fourth.

King, a repeat second team choice, topped the Rams with 45 goals on the season. She added seven assists to give her 52 points, the second on the team. She scored multiple goals in 11 contests. King also scored four goals or more in five games, including a seven-goal effort and a pair of six-goal outings. Her 113 career goals rank her tied for sixth on the Shepherd all-time list with Sidney Kelly (2018-22) and her 136 career points place her in a tie for ninth place with Kelsey Eagan (2011-15).

## MEN'S GOLF

The men's golf team had a second place finish at the Alvernia Spring Classic and finished in fifth place at the Dr. Edwin P. Cottrell Invitational to highlight the spring season. Additionally, junior Trey Rios (Denver, Pa./Cocalico) represented the Rams at the 2025 DII Men's Golf East/Atlantic Regional Championship.

## WOMEN'S GOLF

The women's golf team finished eighth at the Vulcan Fire Classic to highlight the spring season. Additionally, junior Sara Veara (Berkeley Springs, W.Va./Berkeley Springs) garnered second team All-PSAC honors for the second straight season.

## MEN'S TENNIS

The men's tennis team posted a 2-10 overall mark with an 0-5 record in conference play on the season. Wins over Juniata (6-1) and West Liberty (6-1) highlighted the season.

## WOMEN'S TENNIS

The women's tennis recorded a 3-13 mark with an 0-7 record in conference play. The season was highlighted by wins over Juniata (4-3), Western New England (4-3), and Bowie State (5-2) ■

## Shepherd Adds Three to Athletic Hall of Fame

The Shepherd University Athletic Hall of Fame inducted three new members at the annual induction ceremony on Saturday, September 27 at the Storer Ballroom on the Shepherd campus. Football player Terry Corbin joins Georgia Karr Garten '15 (women's lacrosse) and Katie Warehime '09 (women's basketball) are the 39th class to be inducted. The "terrific three" bring the total number of inductees in the Shepherd Athletic Hall of Fame to 173. The trio will also be honored at the Shepherd-Kutztown football game as part of Hall of Fame Weekend festivities.

Corbin (Front Royal, Va./1980 graduate of Warren County High School) was a standout on the football team from 1983-86. A two-time first team All-WVIAC choice, helped lead the Rams to WVIAC titles and NAIA Playoff appearances in 1983 and 1986. He topped the Rams in interceptions in 1983, 1984, and 1986. Corbin was an honorable mention All-American in 1983 and a second team All-American in 1986 when he led the NAIA with 10 interceptions. Corbin's efforts helped Shepherd lead all divisions in 1986 with 35 team interception, and he wrapped up his career with 234 total tackles (158 solos), 26 pass breakups, 22 interceptions, six fumble recoveries, a pair of blocked kicks, and a sack (-12 yards).

Garten (Reston, Va./2011 graduate of Liberty High School) was a standout on the women's lacrosse team from 2012-15. She is the program's all-time leader in points (298) and assists (130). A two-time team captain, Garten was a Division II All-Independent Team choice and garnered first team All-Independent Team honors in 2013 and 2014. She was named Division II All-Independent Co-Player of the Year in 2014 when she tallied 49 goals and 37 assists for 86 points, which set a Shepherd season record. She was awarded Shepherd's Female Athlete of the Year Award in 2014 and 2015, being the first two-time winner of this award. Garten was a first team All-MEC choice in 2015 as she helped lead Shepherd to the regular season and MEC Tournament title and was named to the 2015 WVIAC All-Tournament Team.

Warehime (Oakton, Va./2005 graduate of Littlestown (High School) was a standout on the women's basketball team from 2007-09. Warehime led the Rams to a 39-21 (.650) overall mark with a 29-11 record in conference play over her two-year career. She helped lead the Rams to a 24-7 and an 18-2 record in conference play as the WVIAC champions in 2007-08. A two-time All-WVIAC choice (first team in 2007-08), Warehime garnered WVIAC All-Tournament and NCAA II East Regional All-Tournament Team honors in 2008 as she helped lead the Rams to the regional title game. Her 15.7 scoring average currently ranks fourth on the Shepherd all-time list, while her 941 career points rank her 27th.

## Spring Sports All-Americans

### SOFTBALL

Madelayne Ruffner (Second Team NFCA and Second Team D2CCA)  
Lauren Moore (Second Team D2CCA)

### WOMEN'S LACROSSE

Sydney Witmer (Honorable Mention USA Lacrosse)

## **Reddinger Named Shepherd Women's Lacrosse Coach**

Shepherd University Director of Athletics Carrie Bodkins announced in August that Braxtin Reddinger has been named head women's lacrosse coach.

Reddinger comes to Shepherd after serving as the head coach at York Suburban High School since 2022.

She previously served as an assistant coach at Lycoming College. Reddinger helped the Warriors to a 10-9 overall mark and an appearance in the semifinals of the MAC Freedom Championship in 2022. Reddinger earned second team All-Conference and All-Region honors in 2019 and she was a first-team All-Conference pick at Lock Haven in 2021, when she finished second on the team with 31 points on 28 goals and three assists.

A three-time team captain, Reddinger is also listed in the school's record book in career draw controls, where she is third with 228. Reddinger recorded 124 goals and 42 assists for 166 points for her career. She also has experience coaching with the Hurricanes Lacrosse Club in New Oxford, Pa. Reddinger earned a Bachelor of Arts in Sports Management from Lock Haven University in 2020. She added her Masters of Sports Management from Lock Haven in 2021.

## **Kendig Named Faculty Athletic Representative**

Shepherd University Director of Athletics Carrie Bodkins recently announced that Dr. Stacey Kendig has been named Faculty Athletic Representative. Kendig was the recent Shepherd and PSAC nominee for the NCAA II Dave Pariser Faculty Mentor Award. She is a professor and director of Recreation, Sport, and Exercise

Science and is vital to the success of many Shepherd student-athletes.

Kendig goes above and beyond her day-to-day duties to make sure Shepherd student-athletes have the proper guidance. As an instructor, she focuses on how students learn differently and how to mold her teaching to those different learning styles. With her wealth of knowledge in the field of sport studies, sports marketing, therapeutic recreation, health promotion and exercise science, sports communication, and athletic coaching, she is able to tap into a variety of resources to collect data, share information, and stay up to date on new processes.

Her passion and energy are infectious to the students and staff around her both personally and professionally, and she maintains connections within the surrounding areas of Shepherd University to connect with alumni and local professionals that could potentially set up future internships for student-athletes.

## **Shepherd Women's Lacrosse Team, Players Gain IWLCA Honors**

The Shepherd University women's lacrosse team and five team members have been honored by the Intercollegiate Women's Lacrosse Coaches Association (IWLCA). The team was named to the 2025 IWLCA Academic Honor Squad for posting a 3.2 grade point average or higher for the academic year.

Additionally, senior defender Sydney Witmer (Damascus, Md./Damascus), senior attacker Kelsey King (Fallston, Md./Concordia Prep), senior defender Campbell Vitek (Mt. Airy, Md./South Carroll), senior defender Sarah Fischer (Finksburg, Md./Westminster) and senior defender Paige Sullivan (Havre de Grace, Md./Havre de Grace) were named to the 2025 IWLCA Division II Academic Honor Roll for

being a junior, senior, or graduate student with a 3.5 cumulative point average or higher.

Witmer boasts a 3.72 grade point average as a biology major. She appeared and started in all 16 games. She gained honorable mention USA Lacrosse All-American honors as she paced the Rams in ground balls (65) and caused turnovers (37). Her 65 ground balls set a Shepherd single-season mark, eclipsing the previous record of 63 set by Paige Stoner in 2023. Witmer's 47 draw controls were second on the team.

King boasts a 3.85 grade point average as a health promotion and exercise science major. She appeared and started in all 16 games and earned second team All-PSAC East honors as she topped the Rams with 45 goals on the season. She added seven assists for 52 points and scored four goals or more in five games including a seven-goal effort and a pair of six-goal outings.

Vitek boasts a 3.75 grade point average as a business major. She appeared and started in all 16 games and recorded 29 ground balls, 10 caused turnovers, and one draw control.

Fischer boasts a 3.76 grade point average as a biology major. She appeared and started in 15 games and recorded 23 ground balls, 12 caused turnovers, and one draw control.

Sullivan boasts a 3.73 grade point average as a nursing major. She appeared and started in all 16 games and recorded one goal for one point. She added 20 ground balls and 12 caused turnovers.



## PSAC 75 Greatest Female Athlete Adds Nicole Purtell

Former Shepherd University standout softball player Nicole Purtell (Centreville, Va./Centreville) has been named one of the Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference's (PSAC) 75 Greatest Female Athletes. The PSAC is celebrating its 75th anniversary season in 2025-26. Purtell played for the Rams from 2019-23 and is the program's all-time leader in hits (256), runs (192), and total bases (386). A standout on the field and in the classroom, Purtell was a two-time All-American and a three-time Academic All-American.

## Tyson Bagent Selected as a PSAC 75 Greatest Male Athlete

Former Shepherd University standout football player Tyson Bagent (Martinsburg, W.Va./Martinsburg) has been named as one of the Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference's (PSAC) 75 Greatest Male Athletes. The PSAC is celebrating its 75th anniversary season in 2025-26. Bagent holds virtually every Shepherd passing mark and held 17 NCAA II records when he wrapped up his collegiate career. He was selected as the winner of the Harlon Hill Award in 2021. Bagent, a two-time All-American, was the first Shepherd player to participate in the Senior Bowl. He is currently a backup quarterback for the Chicago Bears.

## Shepherd Trio Named PSAC 75th Anniversary Distinguished Keystones

Head women's soccer coach Sam Odell, head football coach Ernie McCook, and sports information director Chip Ransom have been named as Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference (PSAC) 75th Anniversary Distinguished Keystones. Odell has been the Shepherd head women's soccer since 2021. He came to Shepherd as a graduate assistant in 2019 before being elevated to head coach in 2021. He has a 37-26-6 overall coaching mark at Shepherd heading into this season.

Odell led the Rams to an 18-2-4 overall mark in 2024 as the PSAC and Atlantic Region champions. His squad was the first Shepherd team to capture a PSAC title.

McCook has served as head football coach of the Rams since 2018. He has led the Rams to a 59-18 on the field mark entering this season and helped them make three regional appearances and a pair of Super Region One titles. McCook garnered PSAC East Coach of the Year and AFCA Region One Coach of the Year honors in 2022. Prior to becoming head coach, McCook served as offensive coordinator for nine years and was offensive line coach for 10 years for Shepherd from 1999-2008.

Ransom has served as sports information director since 1997. He nominated and promoted 2021 Harlon Hill Award winner Tyson Bagent and earned the College Sports Communicators 25-Year Award in 2023. He is a member of the College Sports Communicators (CSC), the Football Writers Association of America, the United States Basketball Writers Association, and the National Collegiate Baseball Writers Association.





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*Join Shepherd University's Day of Giving: March 4*

On March 4, the Ram Family unites for the annual Day of Giving—24 hours of generosity, connection, and a shared commitment to student success.

Your support, at any level, helps open doors and create opportunities across campus.

**JOIN US ON MARCH 4**  
and help empower the next  
generation of Rams.



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