



Sixty-Fifth McMurrin Convocation

**In Honor of the
2026 McMurrin Scholars**

Shepherd University



SHEPHERD
UNIVERSITY

Sixty-Fifth McMurrin Convocation
In Honor of the 2026
McMurrin Scholars

Presented by

The Faculty Senate
Scholarship and Awards Committee

Mary J.C. Hendrix, Ph.D.
President

Joseph McMurrin
First Principal of Shepherd College
1871-1882



The McMurrin Scholar Award

The highest academic honor granted by Shepherd University, the McMurrin Scholar Award, was conceived in 1961 by Professor Kenneth Riley, who served on the first Honors Committee, along with Librarian John Main and Dean of Students O. L. Harry. McMurrin Scholars must complete a minimum of 90 semester hours, maintain a minimum 3.86 grade point average, complete two consecutive semesters of study at Shepherd, and be nominated by at least three faculty members. Nominees must then be approved by the entire Shepherd University faculty.

ACADEMIC HONORS CONVOCATION

Remarks

Dr. Mary J.C. Hendrix, President

The Star-Spangled Banner and Shepherd University Alma Mater

Emiliana Jenkins, voice

Brass Quintet: Trumpet - Zach Brown and Jacob Fratantaro, Horn - Max Komori-Hertz, Trombone - Ryan Toth, Tuba - Trey Davis

Dr. Scott Hippensteel, director

McMurrin Address: The Last Lecture Series

Dr. Larry Daily, Professor of Psychology

Presentation of the 2026 Joseph McMurrin Scholars

Biology: Dr. Courtney Campany

Business: Dr. Ben Martz

Communication and New Media: Monica Larson

Computer and Information Sciences & Engineering Science: Dr. Osman Guzide

Contemporary Art and Theater: Andrew Dolan & Austin Showen

Criminal Justice: Dr. Albina Laskovtsov

Economics: Dr. Ben Martz

Education: Dr. Tracy Nichols

English: Dr. Mark Cantrell

Environmental Science: Brooke Comer

History: Dr. Mark Cantrell

Music: Austin Showen

Nursing: Dr. Mary Hancock

Psychology: Dr. Chris Lovelace

Recreation, Sport, and Exercise Science: Dr. Stacey Kendig

Social Work: Dr. Cynthia Burton

Sociology: Dr. Albina Laskovtsov

You are cordially invited to a reception following the ceremony on the Butcher Center Plaza. In case of rain, the reception will be held in the Suzanne Shipley Wellness Center.

Thank you to the McMurrin Scholars Association for sponsoring this year's reception.

Shepherd University Alma Mater

1.

Close beside Potomac waters
Of historic fame,
Stands our noble Alma Mater
Glorious her name.

2.

Nestled in a quiet hamlet
'Neath the azure blue
Sends she forth her sons and daughters
Loyal, loving, true.

3.

Fondly in our memory resting
Happy, gladsome days
Still to thee, dear Alma Mater
Offer we our praise.

Chorus

Lift the chorus, speed it onward
Loud her praises ring,
Hail to thee beloved Shepherd
Hail, all hail, we sing.

Don't forget your photos!

The Grad Team photography company will be providing
photographs of this special occasion.
You can pre-register at www.thegradteam.com/shepherd/ and will receive
a notification when the photographs are available.



www.thegradteam.com/shepherd/

The Joseph McMurrin Scholars

Inducted 2026

Courtney Blank	Matthew Lowe
Ellie Brinkman	Jesse McAllister
Mary Buktaw	Grace McInelly
Rylee Burrill	Sarah Offutt
Aulbree Burriss	Kaci Orr
Aidan Cameron	Joseph Parks
Jacob Cline	Ellen Petersen
Kathleen Cole	Spencer Powell
Brenna Collis	Josiah Pryor
Elizabeth Cook	Cate Russian
Reagan Crook	Kristine Schlack
Erica Foreman	Alyssa Schlaefli
Mason Garrett	Suzanna Schmidt
Aidan Gaughan	Taylor Schuck
Jordan Grimes	Kennedy Shives
Michael Gurson	Leah Snisky
Peyton Hollis	Angelique Stanford
Javan Huett	Anna Steig
Matthew Jagela	Juliet Wells
Chelsea Kreps	Chloe Westfall
Nicholas Krywcun	Alani White
Rylee Lenz	Jason Willard
Ellianah Lester	Alivea Williams
Justin Liang	Patrick Wilson
Sophia Lord	Anika Wirt
	Ashlyn Young

2026 McMurrin Scholars

Biology

Presented by Courtney Campany, Ph.D.

Mary Buktaw, daughter of Munyuk Liu-Buktaw and Raymond Jeffrey Buktaw, graduated from Freedom High School in Chantilly, VA. She is an outstanding Biology major who is also earning minors in Chemistry and Global Studies. Mary has been a dedicated student throughout her time at Shepherd, earning Dean's List honors in all four years. She conducted research on Drosophila neural stem cells and presented her work at the West Virginia Academy of Science meeting. Outside the classroom, Mary is a member of Gamma Sigma Epsilon and Phi Beta Delta honor societies. Her favorite memories of Shepherd include spending time with friends and visiting Fireside for matcha lattes. After graduation, Mary plans to take a gap year before attending medical school.

• *Submitted by Conor W. Sipe, Ph.D.*

Business Administration

Presented by Ben Martz, Ph.D.

Chelsea Kreps, the daughter of Tonya and George Kreps, graduated Summa Cum Laude from Williamsport High School. Chelsea graduated from Shepherd University with a Bachelor of Business Administration and a minor in entrepreneurship in May 2025, while participating in the accelerated 4+1 MBA program. One year later, she will graduate with her MBA. Chelsea's experience included being named to the Dean's List, being an Honors Program student, completing a field internship, working as an administrative assistant for the College of Business, and serving as an intern with the Applied Business Lab for the West Virginia Small Business Development Center for the last two years. Chelsea has been a crucial member of our college administration, leaving very large shoes to fill. She established strong working relationships among faculty, students, and clients, creating significant future opportunities for herself. Chelsea plans to earn her Doctor of Business Administration following graduation.

• *Submitted by James Dovel*

Jesse McAllister, the son of George Franklin McAllister and Kimberly Ann McAllister, graduated from North Hagerstown High School. Jesse is living proof that veterans and adult students can perform at the highest level. His leadership and knowledge added significant value to the Shepherd learning community. During his final class at Shepherd, he was an integral part of a group that produced a business policy and strategy textbook that will be used in our business capstone class at no cost to students going forward. Jesse stated, "Shepherd helped me understand something that I already knew. Your loved ones are the most important thing, and they are your support system". Jesse is currently a site manager at an NIH facility, where he plans to continue his career.

• *Submitted by James Dovel*

Sarah Offutt, the daughter of Tim and Edith Offutt, graduated Magna Cum Laude from Jefferson High School before attending Shepherd. She is majoring in business

administration with a concentration in general business and a minor in entrepreneurship and was named to the Dean's list all four years. Sarah was active in the Delta Zeta sorority, Delta Sigma Pi, and the leadership honor society, Order of Omega. These experiences created Sarah's favorite part of her time at Shepherd: the friendships she built. Sarah reflects, "Whether through events, campus life, and everyday moments, it showed me the value of connection and the friends who will last a lifetime. Shepherd taught me to be more independent and confident in myself. It pushed me to manage my time, take responsibility for my goals, and balance hard work with enjoying the present." Following graduation, Sarah plans to earn her MBA from Shepherd University while working as a marketing assistant at Cape Cod Formals in Charles Town, WV.

• *Submitted by James Dovel*

Leah Snisky, daughter of of Mike Snisky and Tricia Snisky, graduated from Jim Thorpe Area High School. While attending Shepherd University and pursuing a degree in business administration, with a minor in recreation and sports studies, Leah has been focused on her academic successes and named to the Dean's List numerous times. She will graduate with an overall GPA of a 3.87 or above and has maintained an A average since transferring to Shepherd. During her time at Shepherd, Leah was also a member on the women's basketball team. She was a great addition to the program as she demonstrates leadership, competitiveness and being a good role model. Leah enjoys spending time with her teammates and making the most of everything Shepherd has to offer, both on and off campus. Leah will use her management skills and Business Administration degree to pursue a career in sales.

• *Submitted by Julia Kaufman*

Ashlyn Young, graduating in Business Administration, has distinguished herself through exceptional academic achievement and dedication. A four-time Dean's List honoree and Honors Program student, she has consistently demonstrated discipline, intellectual curiosity, and a commitment to excellence.

• *Submitted by Zahra Pourabedin*

Communication and New Media

Presented by Monica Larson.

Patrick Wilson, son of David and Melissa Wilson, graduated summa cum laude from Jefferson High School and will graduate from Shepherd with a major in Communication & New Media and a minor in Spanish. A Dean's List student for three years, Patrick has distinguished himself through academic excellence, leadership, service, and kindness. He completed an internship with SkillsUSA, a national nonprofit organization, where he worked in marketing/communications, and conference/event management. On campus, he has been active in Phi Kappa Phi, WSHC Radio, the National Millennial and GenZ Community, the Student Ambassador Association, and The Picket student newspaper. As a Rambassador since spring 2024 and Rambassador President for 2025–26, he has supported Shepherd's admissions marketing and outreach. Patrick says Shepherd taught him to take risks, be present, and embrace opportunity. After graduation, he plans to pursue a career in nonprofit or higher-education marketing/communications.

• *Submitted by Monica Larson*

Computer and Information Sciences & Engineering Science

Presented by Osman Guzide

Ellie Brinkman, daughter of John P. Brinkman and Jolyam Brinkman, graduated summa cum laude from Martinsburg High School in Martinsburg, West Virginia. She continued her academic excellence at Shepherd University, where she maintained a flawless 4.0 GPA and earned a place on the Dean's List every semester. Ellie very active member of IEE, Computer Science and Engineering honor society and other clubs. Ellie did volunteer job for residence life office. Ellie said that she learned at shepherd "take pride in my efforts and understand that the work I put in matters". Ellie completed her bachelor's degree in computer information Science with a concentration in Computer Science. She plans to pursue a professional role in the technology field and is committed to continuing her growth and expertise in Computer Science.

• Submitted by Osman Guzide

Aidan Cameron, grandson of James Gregory Cameron Sr. and Karri Ann Summers Cameron, graduated summa cum laude from Jefferson High School, in Shenandoah Junction, West Virginia. Throughout his tenure at Shepherd University, Aidan has maintained a 3.89 GPA, consistently earning a place on the Dean's List each semester. He is currently pursuing a bachelor's degree in computer information science, with a concentration in Computer Programming. He is a recipient of both the West Virginia Promise Scholarship as well as the Shepherd University President's Scholarship, and is enrolled in the Honors Program. Post-graduation, Aidan plans to find a job in the field of Software Engineering, evolve his skills, and earn certifications as he travels the ever-changing field of Computer Science.

• Submitted by Osman Guzide

Mason Garrett, son of Joshua and Kerry Garrett, graduated second in the class of 2024 from Spring Mills High School in Martinsburg, WV, before attending Shepherd University. At Shepherd, Mason is currently pursuing a bachelor's degree in Computer and Information Sciences with a concentration in Computer Programming and Information Systems. Throughout his tenure at Shepherd, Mason has maintained a flawless 4.0 GPA, which has consistently earned him a place on the Dean's List each semester. He is a recipient of both the West Virginia Promise Scholarship and the Shepherd University President's Scholarship. In addition to these accolades, Mason has participated in the Ram Band as well as other musical ensembles throughout his college career while maintaining a heavy course load. As his time at Shepherd nears its end, Mason hopes he has made a lasting impact on the people he has connected with. Once Mason has graduated, he plans to find a software engineering job in the local area.

• Submitted by Osman Guzide

Peyton Hollis, son of Matthew and Jessica Hollis, graduated with a 4.68 GPA from Middletown High School . Peyton had a perfect 4.0 GPA while averaging 18 credits per semester with the Dean's List at Shepherd. He is currently pursuing a BS degree in CIS with a concentration in Computer Science and plans to graduate at the end of this semester, completing his degree in three years with high skill works. Also, he secured an internship with RELI Group, a consulting firm that supports federal health programs through data analytics, information systems, and technology solutions. Peyton did hands-on experience in professional software and data environments while expanding his understanding of how information systems support

large-scale organizations. He plans to continue with RELI Group after graduating. Following graduation, Peyton intends to further develop his technical expertise and pursue a long-term career in computer science, applying his analytical skills, problem-solving abilities.

• *Submitted by Osman Guzide*

Javan Huett, son of John and Joice Huett, graduated Summa Cum Laude from Jefferson High School, in Shenandoah Junction, West Virginia. Throughout his tenure at Shepherd University, Javan has maintained a 3.86 GPA, consistently earning a place on the Dean's List each semester. He graduated from Shepherd in December 2025 with a Bachelor's degree in Computer Information Science, and is a recipient of the West Virginia Grant and Shepherd Director Scholarship. During his time at Shepherd, he has worked as a Calculus 2 Tutor and aided those who needed assistance completing homework and understanding difficult topics. Post-graduation, Javan is looking forward to nurturing his future career and technical background with the world's largest credit union, Navy Federal Credit Union.

• *Submitted by Osman Guzide*

Justin Liang is the son of Zhen Liang and Lily Wu. He graduated summa cum laude from Jefferson High School. Throughout his tenure at Shepherd University, Justin has maintained a 3.93 GPA and on the Dean's List each semester. He is in BSc degree in Computer Information Science with a concentration in Programming. Justin is a recipient of the West Virginia Promise Scholarship, the APIA/Toyota Scholarship, and the PENN Entertainment Diversity Scholarship. During his time at Shepherd, he completed an internship with West Virginia University's 2024 NRT Summer Research Project. He collaborated with an interdisciplinary team to analyze the effectiveness of artificial intelligence in healthcare applications. His team evaluated AI diagnostic performance using medical imaging datasets and presented their findings at the 2024 NSF Track-2 CRESH/BridgesDH NRT/BioML Workshops on AI & Digital Health Conference held at WVU. Justin plans to pursue a career in software and AI development."

• *Submitted by Osman Guzide*

Josiah Pryor, son of Dean and Kristin Pryor, graduated from Boyd J. Michael III Technical High School in Hagerstown, Maryland, where he participated in the Cisco I.T. Academy, earning CompTIA A+ IT certification and interning with the school system's IT department. He went to Hagerstown Community College and earned membership in the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society for academic excellence. Josiah later transferred to Shepherd University, where he completed his BSc degree in computer science with a 4.0 GPA. He is S_STEM scholar and did many undergraduate research including Artificial Intelligence. Josiah gained industry experience as a Salesforce CRM Intern in JLG Industries, where he learned declarative administrative skills of the Salesforce platform which help support the Sales, marketing, and service teams at JLG. Josiah was offered a year-round internship and continues to work with the Salesforce as he pursues to be a Salesforce Certified Platform Administrator and continue his career

• *Submitted by Osman Guzide*

Alani White, daughter of Tyenna Tosten, graduated in 2021 from Broadfording Christian Academy. Alani began her undergraduate studies as a study abroad student, majoring in environmental science, before transferring to Shepherd University in the fall semester of 2022. She graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Engineering Sciences, with a concentration in environmental engineering. Throughout her time at Shepherd, Alani has had the opportunity to intern at the National Conservation Training Center and

participate in the SOARS program, where her research was presented at the Annual WVU Research Symposium. Alani was named to the Dean's List each semester and was a recipient of the S-STEM Scholarship. Also, Alani was a member of the Global Student Leadership team, volunteered at the Ram Pantry, and was the Vice President of the Black Student Union. Alani wants to apply her environmental engineering knowledge in conservation, sustainability, and environmental problem-solving.

• *Submitted by Osman Guzide*

Contemporary Art and Theater

Presented by Andrew Dolan

Kaci Orr, daughter of Amanda Nicole Orr Wayne Douglas Miller Jr., is from Martinsburg, West Virginia. Kaci attended Hedgesville High School and is a theater major with a minor in music at Shepherd University. Kaci's favorite things about her programs are the people she is surrounded by. She loves being part of the arts community at Shepherd University, which she sees as a home of support and collaboration, where it is safe to take risks and grow as an artist. While at Shepherd, Kaci has loved being part of productions, whether it is onstage or backstage. She is a member of Sigma Alpha Iota, the music honor society for women. Kaci has been named to the Dean's List each semester since beginning at Shepherd University. Upon graduation, she will continue exploring her deep connection to the art she loves and hopes to pursue a Masters of Fine Arts in Acting.

• *Submitted by Shea-Mikai Green*

Joseph Parks from Fairplay, Maryland, is the son of Christine Lafferty-Parks and Charles Joseph Parks. He completed his high school years and was valedictorian from GVCS Broadfording in Clearspring, Maryland. He is graduating from Shepherd University summa cum laude with a major in communications and media and a minor in coaching. Joseph's academic strengths include being named on the Dean's list and producing thoughtful, thorough research and creative work. Joseph impressed his professors with his ability to apply his academic knowledge and creativity with ease on all tasks that were assigned. Joseph's favorite experiences at Shepherd include creating an ultimate frisbee club team, filming projects with his peers, creating an AI generated single play murder mystery game and the friends he made along the journey. He credits his professors for helping him believe in his creative vision. Joseph desires to offer a special thanks to his wife Clair, his family, peers and his church (Covenant Church) for their support, wisdom, encouragement and for always believing in him. After graduation, Joseph plans to pursue his passions and apply the knowledge he has acquired at Shepherd in film. He is currently working with Paperboys Weddings out of Fredericksburg, VA perfecting his skills in photography and cinematography. His ultimate goal is to become a director/cinematographer.

• *Submitted by Joseph Parks*

Liv Williams, daughter of Tona and Carter Williams, graduated Summa Cum Laude from Moorefield High School in Old Fields, West Virginia. Within Shepherd's Graphic Design program, Liv has consistently demonstrated the highest levels of academic excellence. Her talents span strong conceptualization skills, meticulous attention to detail, and exceptional organizational ability. In collaborative settings, her verbal communication abilities shine—her thoughtful insights into her peers' work are both sought out and

deeply valued. Liv's exemplary academic record is matched only by her persistent drive to learn and grow as an artist. Those around her are drawn not only to the creativity she brings to every endeavor, but to the genuine kindness she extends to classmates and our broader community. We're delighted that Liv intends to synthesize all these wonderful qualities by planning to continue the MAT 4+1 graduate program here at Shepherd and gain her master's degree in education to teach art.

• Submitted by Jennifer Yablonsky

Criminal Justice

Presented by Albina Laskovtsov, Ph.D.

Kathleen Cole, daughter of Shannan Turner-Cole and Gary Cole, graduated from Richard Montgomery High School. She majored in Criminal Justice with minors in Spanish and Psychology. She earned a place on the Dean's List every year and faculty unanimously named her Outstanding Senior in Criminal Justice. Kathleen was a member of Alpha Phi Sigma and Phi Kappa Phi, served as captain of the Shepherd Dance Team, and was president of the Sociology and Criminology Club. Since her freshman year, she has been an Ambassador in the Office of Admissions and was named Student Ambassador of the Year last year. She worked in weight fitness at the Wellness Center. Kathleen earned the Peace Corps Prep Certificate, recognizing her commitment to cross-cultural understanding. Following graduation, she plans to return to Rockville to serve as a victim advocate or work alongside law enforcement. Her favorite part of Shepherd was "spending time with all the amazing people this community has brought me."

• Submitted by Amy Dewitt

Reagan Crook, daughter of Jackie Crook and Travis Walter, graduated summa cum laude from Boonsboro High School. She first earned her associate degree in General Studies from Hagerstown Community College. At Shepherd, Reagan majored in Criminal Justice with a concentration in Forensics and a minor in Psychology. She was named to the Dean's List every year of her collegiate career, reflecting her commitment to excellence. During her senior year, Reagan completed her capstone internship with the Hagerstown Police Department (HPD), where her professionalism and work ethic distinguished her among supervisors and colleagues. Her outstanding performance led directly to a job offer. Following graduation, she will attend the police academy and begin her career in law enforcement with HPD, with the long-term goal of advancing into criminal investigation. Reagan's academic preparation, applied experience, and determination position her well for a successful and impactful career in public service.

• Submitted by Amy Dewitt

Ellen "Ellie" Petersen, daughter of Julie Petersen and Erik Petersen, graduated magna cum laude from Jefferson High School. She first earned an associate degree in criminal justice from Blue Ridge CTC, graduating with a 4.0 transfer GPA. At Shepherd, she majored in Criminal Justice with a concentration in Forensics and a minor in Homeland Security and was named to the Dean's List for both years. Ellie has been active in Alpha Phi Sigma, the Ram Marching Band, and the Sociology and Criminology Club. She is completing her capstone internship with the U.S. Marshals Service. Reflecting on her time at Shepherd, Ellie shares, "Shepherd taught me that I am far more capable than I ever realized. It showed me that I am more than my doubts, and it taught me to advocate

for myself and pursue opportunities with confidence.” Following graduation, she plans to take time to explore areas of interest within her field and is considering graduate school as she determines her next steps.

• Submitted by Amy Dewitt

Economics

Presented by Ben Martz, Ph.D.

Ellianah Lester is the daughter of Sarah Malone. Ellianah graduated Summa Cum Laude from Princeton Senior High School. Ellianah will graduate from Shepherd with a double major in Economics and Accounting and a minor in Business Administration. She is the recipient of the John Phillips Economics Award and has been named to the Dean’s List throughout her college career. Ellianah is currently a tax intern at SEK, CPAs & Advisors and is the recipient of the SEK Scholarship. While at Shepherd, Ellianah has been a member of the Accounting Club, the honor society of Phi Kappa Phi, and the Ram Marching Band. Her favorite part of being at Shepherd is the supportive community around campus. Shepherd has taught Ellianah to obtain success by capitalizing on her strengths and striving always to be herself. Once she graduates, Ellianah plans to work in the field of tax accounting while pursuing CPA licensure.

• Submitted by Amanda Mandzik

Education

Presented by Tracy Nichols, Ph.D.

Rylee Burrill, a Summa Cum Laude graduate from Musselman High School located in South Berkeley County, WV, is the daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Jeremy Todd. She is an Elementary Education Major in the School of Education which is under the administrative aegis of the College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences. Currently, while preparing for final evaluations, Rylee and her friendship cohort may be found routinely walking around the SU-river-based campus including all the way down along the Potomac riverfront.

However, after graduation, Rylee will continue her educational pursuits beyond Shepherd University with the goal of moving into the public school system with a comprehensive Master’s Degree. Rylee hopes to make a positive impact on local and regional communities through Berkeley County Schools, as she evolves into her own best teaching practitioner within that district’s educational system.

• Submitted by Dawn Burke

Aulbree Burriss, daughter of Jessica Burtner and John Burriss, graduated Summa Cum Laude from Brunswick High School. Marines are renown as elite, disciplined individuals with core values of honor, courage, and commitment. Aulbree has used her marine grit to prepare for a profession that requires these same values, teaching. She has combined her experiences the oldest cousin, volunteer tutor, and marine radio operator/trainer to truly become an elite educator. As an elementary education major on the dean’s list all four years at Shepherd, she was hired to be the clinical teacher of record in her own fourth grade classroom during her senior year. She reports that her military experience handling pressure and stress have served her well as she prepares her students for state testing. She also says that there is

nothing better than seeing a child's eyes light up when they learn something new. Aulbree plans to continue her educational excellence by earning a masters degree.

• *Submitted by LeAnn Johnson*

Elizabeth Cook, daughter of John and Melissa Cook, graduated Summa Cum Laude from The Master's Academy. While at Shepherd, Libby joined Sigma Sigma Sigma sorority, medlife organization and has been on the Dean's list every semester. Libby had the amazing opportunity to travel to Kenya, where she spent three weeks teaching at a local village school alongside other Shepherd faculty and students from the School of Education. Libby completed her yearlong residency teaching internship at Ranson Elementary. She had the privilege of teaching alongside Melissa Pleasant and working with an incredible group of fifth-grade students. Once Libby graduates, she plans to pursue a teaching career and apply for positions both locally and in her home state of Florida, with the goal of one day leading her own classroom and fostering young minds.

• *Submitted by Belinda Mitchell*

Erica Foreman, the daughter of Rebecca Hamman, is a graduate of East Hardy High School and native of Wardensville, WV. Erica is an active member of the Shepherd University chapter of Kappa Delta Pi, the International Honor Society in Education, where she has demonstrated a strong commitment to academic excellence and service. During her time at Shepherd, Erica has also volunteered for the Relay for Life event, showing her dedication to supporting important causes within the community. In addition, she has been involved with Cru ministries, where she has built meaningful connections and continued to grow both personally and professionally. After graduation, Erica plans to teach at the elementary school level, where she hopes to inspire young students, create a positive classroom environment, and make a lasting impact on their learning and confidence.

• *Submitted by Jason Allen*

Cate Russian, the Daughter of Blythe Russian and Ken Russian, graduated Magna Cum Laude from Charles J. Colgan High School in Manassas Virginia.

While at Shepherd Cate majored in Elementary Education and was on the Dean's List for two years. Cate loves soft ball and is on the Shepherd University team. Even though it was difficult she enjoyed balancing her softball schedule with academics and found a way to be successful in both. Cate is a member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

Among Cate's fondest memories is the time spent in her education classes where she was able to meet many future educators who have become her friends.

Cate's future plans after graduation include working as a second grade teacher in a classroom environment where she will strive to instill self-confidence, and foster a love of learning in every child.

• *Submitted by Tauna Cole*

Angelique Stanford, daughter of Heather Dawn Stanford and James Matthew Stanford, graduated summa cum laude from Jefferson High School in Shenandoah Junction, West Virginia. Angel is a dedicated Elementary Education major, set to graduate in May. She is proud that her hard work has earned her a place on the Dean's List. At Shepherd, Angel has learned the value of collaboration with both peers and mentors, as well as the importance of persevering through challenges. In the classroom, she has demonstrated patience and a commitment to creating a positive and supportive learning environment.

After graduation, Angel plans to explore local schools and pursue a position as an interventionist or elementary classroom teacher. She is committed to making a positive impact in the lives of her future students.

• Submitted by Tracy Nichols

English

Presented by Mark Cantrell

Courtney Blank is from Charles Town, West Virginia, child of Christopher Scott Blank and Sarah Michelle Blank. She graduated with summa cum laude honors from Washington High School. At Shepherd, she was a member of the honor society of Phi Kappa Phi, the Student Library Advisory Board, and Sigma Tau Delta, the English honor society. Her favorite things to do at Shepherd are walking around and petting the Shepherdstown cats. She observes that studying at Shepherd has taught her to think outside the box in original, creative ways. After graduation, she plans to write for a local newspaper. The faculty of the English program congratulate Courtney on all her accomplishments and wish her the absolute best as she offers her formidable talents in writing and analysis to our wider community!

• Submitted by Mark Cantrell

Alyssa Schlaefli, a graduate of Berkeley Springs High, is the daughter of Al and Patty Schlaefli. She is a double major in English and Spanish with a minor in Gender and Women's Studies. Among her many accomplishments, Alyssa is the current president of Shepherd's chapter of Sigma Tau Delta, the international English honor society; she also served on SGA and is a member of the Gender and Sexuality Alliance. Alyssa has presented scholarly papers at Sigma Tau Delta's 2026 convention in New Orleans and at the 2025 West Virginia Literary Symposium in Fairmont. In addition to studying abroad in Argentina, Alyssa has also rubbed shoulders with some of today's most important writers like Jesmyn Ward and Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie. The English and Spanish faculty are all eager to see where in the world Alyssa ends up.

• Submitted by Tim Nixon

Anna Steig, the daughter of Julie and Sean Steig, graduated from North Hagerstown High School in 2023. She completed her bachelor's degree summa cum laude at Shepherd University in December 2025 as both an English major with a concentration in literature and a proud member of the Honors Program. She simultaneously earned a certificate in paralegal studies from Hagerstown Community College. At Shepherd, Anna was a member of Sigma Tau Delta, a poetry editor for Sans Merci literary magazine, and a commuter senator for the Student Government Association. She is now looking forward to beginning a summer internship with the Honorable Judge Dana Moylan Wright of the Washington County Circuit Court for the 4th Judicial Circuit, and she plans to attend law school in the fall of 2027.

• Submitted by Michael Vaclav

Chloe Westfall, daughter of Eden Ritchie, graduated from Frankfort High School. At Shepherd, Chloe majored in English with a minor in Education. She has succeeded in every task she takes on, both in and outside of the classroom. She has been on the Dean's List every semester, and is a member of Sigma Tau Delta, the English honor society. In

March, she presented her scholarly work at Sigma Tau Delta's international convention in New Orleans. She is also a member of Tri Sigma and the Order of Omega. Chloe works as a writing tutor and in the Admissions Office as a Rambassador. Whenever her community needs her, Chloe steps up—with amazing results. Her outstanding achievements are why she was given this year's "The Courage to Inspire, Strength to Empower" award by Women Investing in Shepherd University. Enrolled in a 4+1 program, Chloe is already taking graduate courses to earn her MAT in Secondary Education and plans to teach English upon finishing her degree.

• Submitted by Heidi Hanrahan

Environmental Science

Presented by Brooke Comer

Anika Wirt, daughter of Traci Morris and Mark Wirt, graduated from Morgan Academy High School in West Virginia in 2021. While majoring in Environmental Studies and minoring in Physics and Geographic Information Systems, Anika has excelled in her classes, making the Dean's list six times. Anika holds numerous leadership positions in Shepherd groups including Pi Epsilon environmental honor society, the Program Board, and Student Life Council. She also volunteers at Tabler Farm and with the American Conservation Film Festival. Anika was awarded a NASA West Virginia Space Grant Consortium Undergraduate Fellowship to use ground penetrating radar to look for unmarked graves at the Roman Catholic Burying Ground in Shepherdstown. She will study arctic environments abroad next semester at the University Centre in Svalbard in Longyearbyen, the world's northernmost research and higher education institution.

• Submitted by Zachary Musselman

History

Presented by Mark Cantrell

Jacob Cline is the son of James and Tracy Cline. He graduated Summa Cum Laude from Hedgesville High School. Here at Shepherd, he majors in History with a special interest in the history of East Asia. Indeed, on his own initiative, he has studied the languages and writing systems of Japanese and Korean in some detail. As an English minor, he has written a particularly impressive piece titled "Daodejing: A Brother's Way," which analyzed his relationship with his brother through quotations from an ancient Daoist text. Jacob recently applied to Akita International University in Japan for a semester abroad and expects to attend there this coming Fall. After completing his degree at Shepherd, he hopes to major in East Asian Studies as a graduate student at the University of Hawaii, eventually becoming an educator teaching Asian history and languages to students in both the United States and Japan.

• Submitted by David Gordon

Sophie Lord represents the best of Shepherd. Shepherd prepares students for success in their professional endeavors while instilling in them a strong interdisciplinary foundation necessary to live a good and moral life. She is adventurous, having seized the opportunity to travel abroad to Europe as part of her history education. She is committed to her future career as an educator, a fact demonstrated by her success in the Social Studies Education 4+1

program. Her peers in Phi Alpha Theta rely on her enthusiasm and empathy to sustain the social life of the program. Sophie is currently finishing an exceptional capstone project on historical representations of Irish history in the public art in contemporary Northern Ireland. Her work combines careful visual interpretation with primary source research and offers an original look at how historical memory continues to inform Irish sectarian identity. Sophie will be an excellent teacher who will impact the lives of generations of students.

• Submitted by Benjamin Bankhurst

Music

Presented by Austin Showen

Matthew Jagela, the son of Michael and Nikki Jagela, proudly graduated summa cum laude from Weir High School, WV. At Shepherd, Matthew is working towards a Bachelor of Music Education degree. During his college years, he has been an active performer, participating in various instrumental and vocal ensembles. Additionally, he has served as an accompanist for departmental student recitals. Recognized for his academic excellence, Matthew has earned a spot on the Dean's List for three consecutive years and is enrolled in Honors Program. Beyond academics, he serves as president of Kappa Delta Pi, and he is a member of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia and the National Association for Music Education. Outside the university setting, Matthew serves as the organist at Trinity Reformed United Church of Christ in Boonsboro, MD. He was also awarded internship with Friends of Music for the 2024-2025 academic year. After graduation, Matthew aspires to pursue a Master of Music degree in trombone performance.

• Submitted by Yu-Hsuan Liao

Nicholas (Nick) Krywcun is a senior music education major from Harpers Ferry, WV. Son of John and Joanne Krywcun, he attended Jefferson High School where he graduated with high honors. As a proficient trombone player, Nick has performed in a variety of ensembles giving him a wide range of experiences he will be able to share with his future students. Beyond his playing, Nick has been heavily involved in numerous organizations including Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia, Kappa Kappa Psi (band honors society), National Association for Music Education, and Kappa Delta Pi (education honors society). He has also been a leader of the Shepherd Recording Project for three years. Nick is always excited to meet new people, to learn, and to lead others. Upon graduation, he plans to teach high school music while also pursuing a Masters degree in conducting.

• Submitted by Stefan Swanson

Juliet Wells, daughter of Stephanie and Daniel Wells, graduated summa cum laude from Jefferson High School. As a music education major, Juliet studies trombone and performs with the Shepherd Ram Band, Wind Ensemble, and Chamber Singers. She is an active member of the band honor society Kappa Kappa Psi, the education honor society Kappa Delta Pi, and represents the Shepherd collegiate chapter of the National Association for Music Education in the Student Government Association. Juliet's favorite part of being a student at Shepherd is performing in musical ensembles with her friends. She also made a hilariously noteworthy turn portraying Johannes Brahms in an acclaimed student short film for Music History. After graduating from Shepherd, Juliet plans to teach general or instrumental music at the elementary or middle school level.

• Submitted by Austin Showen

Nursing

Presented by Mary Hancock

Jordan Grimes, daughter of David and Deborah Grimes, graduated Summa Cum Laude from Spring Mills High School and continued her academic excellence at Shepherd University as a Nursing major. During her time at Shepherd, Jordan was an active member of the Student Nurses Association, demonstrating her commitment to the nursing profession and to serving others.

One of Jordan's favorite memories at Shepherd was spending time with friends at Little Brick Coffee, reflecting the importance she places on connection and community. Following graduation, Jordan will begin her nursing career as a Registered Nurse in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at Meritus Medical Center in Hagerstown, Maryland, where she will care for some of the most vulnerable patients and their families. Please join us in congratulating Jordan Grimes on her outstanding academic achievements and wishing her continued success in her nursing career.

• Submitted by Brenda Johnston

Rylee Lenz, daughter of Christine Lenz and Sean Lenz, graduated Summa Cum Laude from Bohemia Manor High School and has continued her record of excellence at Shepherd University, maintaining a 4.00 GPA while majoring in Nursing. A dedicated student-athlete, Rylee successfully balanced the academic rigor of her nursing program with the demands of collegiate volleyball. She demonstrated leadership and service through active involvement in the Student Nurses Association and the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee. Rylee embraced her Shepherd experience with gratitude and purpose, valuing each moment and encouraging others to do the same. Her academic achievement, discipline, and teamwork exemplify the qualities of a McMurran Scholar. Upon passing the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX), Rylee plans to begin her professional career as an emergency room nurse.

• Submitted by Michelle Cooper

Suzanna Schmidt, daughter of Tj Schmidt and Susan Schmidt. She came to Shepherd University after completing a rigorous homeschool curriculum. During her time at Shepherd, Suzanna consistently excelled academically, earning a place on the Dean's List for four years and receiving the Promise Scholarship. Her commitment to the profession extended beyond the classroom through her involvement in the Student Nurses Association, where she engaged with peers and contributed to the nursing community. Suzanna reflects that her favorite part of her Shepherd experience was the friendships and strong support system she developed within the nursing program. She also shares that her time at Shepherd helped her grow in confidence, recognizing her ability to succeed academically and pursue a meaningful and successful career in nursing. Following graduation, Suzanna plans to begin her career in acute care to build a strong clinical foundation and refine her skills.

• Submitted by Rachel Link

Taylor Schuck, daughter of Peter Schuck and Julie Schuck, came to Shepherd University as a graduate of West Springfield High School. Taylor brought dedication and balance to her college experience, excelling both academically and athletically. During her time at Shepherd, Taylor achieved academic success by earning a place on the Dean's List and being

recognized as an Honors Program student. In addition to her academic accomplishments, she was a member of the women's soccer team, demonstrating teamwork, discipline, and commitment both on and off the field. Outside the classroom, Taylor cherishes the meaningful connections she made during her time at Shepherd. She shares that her favorite part of her college experience was spending quality time with friends—whether going on walks, enjoying movie nights, or sharing meals together. Following graduation, Taylor plans to take the NCLEX and begin her career as a registered nurse.

• Submitted by Rachel Link

Psychology

Presented by Chris Lovelace

Michael “Mickey” Gurson, a psychology major, is the son of Faith and Michael Gurson. He came to Shepherd from Berkeley Springs High School, where he graduated Summa Cum Laude. Mickey has maintained his record of excellence throughout his career at Shepherd. He earned membership in both Psi Chi – the international honor society in psychology – and Phi Kappa Phi and was named to the Dean's List for three years. As a Biology minor, Mickey has been working on a research project with Dr. Conor Sipe exploring how restricting and subsequently restoring dietary nutrients changes neural proliferation and formation in developing fruit fly brains. He is also currently working on his Psychology capstone project, an investigation of the physiological effects of perfectionism. After graduation, Mickey plans to go to graduate school to earn a Ph.D. in behavioral neuroscience.

• Submitted by Larry Daily

Kennedy Shives, daughter of Nicole Shives and Jeff Shives, graduated Summa Cum Laude from Berkeley Springs High School. At Shepherd, Kennedy majored in psychology with a minor in criminal justice. She has been on the Dean's List for all 4 years at Shepherd, and is a member of the psychology honor society, Psi Chi. Kennedy graduated last fall. Her capstone project examined the relation between parental involvement and academic self-efficacy. Kennedy is currently enrolled in a master's program in applied behavior analysis, and plans to become a board certified behavior analyst (BCBA). She plans to work to support children with developmental disabilities. Kennedy credits Shepherd with challenging her to think critically and teaching her to step outside of her comfort zone to grow both academically and personally.

• Submitted by Lindsey Levitan

Recreation, Sport, and Exercise Science

Presented by Stacey Kendig, Ed.D.

Brenna Collis is from Hedgesville, West Virginia and a Summa Cum Laude graduate from Hedgesville High School. Brenna is the daughter of Joseph and Trisha Collis. While attending Shepherd University, Brenna has been a member of the Shepherd University Women's Softball Team, a member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes Organization, and the secretary of the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee. Academically, Brenna is just as stellar: Dean's list, Phi Kappa Phi member, and a 2024-2025 NFCA All-America Scholar Athlete. Brenna is pursuing a degree in Health Promotion and Exercise Science with a minor in Psychology. Upon graduation, Brenna plans to pursue a master's degree in occupational therapy, specializing in pediatrics. Brenna notes that Shepherd

University has taught her how to have discipline, show resilience and demonstrate gratitude for everlasting opportunities; she continues to note that.

• *Submitted by Jessica Graham*

Aidan Gaughan is from Monrovia, Maryland and a graduate from Urbana High School. Mr. Gaughan is the son of Brian and Catherine Gaughan. Aidan is majoring in Health Promotion and Exercise Science, with a concentration in Health Sciences. While attending Shepherd University, Aidan has earned the academic accomplishment of being on the Dean's List, all while being a part of the Shepherd University Football Team. While Aidan's time at Shepherd is winding down, he credits Shepherd for teaching him to how handle all life's adversities and still thrive. Upon graduation, Aidan plans to move to Florida and attend graduate school in pursuit of a career as a Physician Associate.

• *Submitted by Jessica Graham*

Matthew Lowe is from Shepherdstown, West Virginia was a Summa Cum Laude graduate of Jefferson High School. Matthew is the son Leonard and Christine Lowe. While attending Shepherd University and pursuing a degree in Health Promotion and Exercise Science, Matthew was named to the Dean's List every semester. Matthew also earned the honor of being inducted to Phi Kappa Phi. Matthew credits his favorite pastime at Shepherd University is challenging the thinking and patience of Dr. Graham. Upon graduation, Matthew plans to pursue a master's degree and become a Physician Associate, with a long-term goal of returning to medical school and becoming a practicing physician.

• *Submitted by Jessica Graham*

Spencer J. Powell, son of Jeffrey and Elizabeth Powell, is a local Shepherd student from Charles Town, West Virginia. Spencer graduated Summa Cum Laude from Jefferson High School while participating in the dual enrollment program here at Shepherd University. While majoring in Health Promotion and Exercise Science at Shepherd University, Spencer has maintained the Dean's List every semester. Spencer credits Shepherd University with his growth in stepping out of his comfort zone and taking on new challenges with confidence. While Spencer will miss his friends, he will be continuing his education upon graduation in pursuit of becoming a Physician's Associate. It is noteworthy that Spencer is not only very deserving of this honor, graduating early with high academic achievements, but his sense of humor and loud, robust personality will be deeply missed by his classmates, but most of all...Dr. Graham.

• *Submitted by Jessica Graham*

Social Work

Presented by Cynthia Burton

Grace McInelly is the daughter of Shawna Luke and Ryan Luke, and is a graduate of Morgantown High School in Morgantown, West Virginia. Grace majored in Social Work with minors in Art and Psychology. She has been recognized for her academic achievement, earning a place on the Dean's List for four years and completing a Certificate in Child Advocacy Studies. While at Shepherd, Grace has been a member of Phi Kappa Phi. During her senior year, Grace completed a 600-hour social work internship with the West Virginia Department of Human Services, where she applied the knowledge and skills she developed at Shepherd and gained valuable practice experience. In addition, Grace completed a community advocacy project focused on implementing dialectical

behavioral thinking in Berkeley County Schools through the Stubblefield Institute and Martinsburg Initiative. Her future plans include her upcoming wedding and full-time employment in child welfare in West Virginia.

• Submitted by Craig Cline

Jason Willard is the son of Larry McComas Willard and Janice Lee Willard. He is a graduate of Frederick High School in Frederick, Maryland. At Shepherd, Jason majored in Social Work with a minor in Psychology. Jason has appreciated the sense of community at Shepherd, especially the opportunity to learn alongside classmates of diverse ages and life experiences who welcomed him from day one. While at Shepherd, Jason completed a 600-hour social work internship in adult protective services in Washington County, Maryland. He also conducted research into food insecurity and food access among college students. After graduation, Jason plans to pursue a Master of Social Work degree at the University of Kentucky and is looking forward to beginning a career in adult services with the Washington County Department of Social Services.

• Submitted by Craig Cline

Sociology

Presented by Albina Laskovlsov

Kristine Schlack, daughter of Bernadeth Schlack and Christian Schlack, graduated summa cum laude from Musselman High School. At Shepherd University, she is majoring in Sociology with minors in History and Psychology. Kristine earned a place on the Dean's List all four years, reflecting her strong academic commitment. She shares that her favorite part of being at Shepherd has been “walk[ing] around town with my friends and walk[ing] down to the river,” and she learned to “ask for help from professors, even if it's intimidating, because they are always willing to help.” Her Senior Thesis topic involved examining cases of women who have been convicted of intimate partner homicide and how prior victimization contributed to their offenses, which has inspired her career path. Following graduation, Kristine plans to attend graduate school for Social Work and to connect with local women's shelters to become an advocate.

• Submitted by Amy Dewitt

View the Ceremony Recording and Past McMurrans Scholars

A full list of past scholars and the recording of today's ceremony are available online at www.shepherd.edu/mcmurrans.



The McMurren Convocation ‘Last Lecture’

The McMurren Convocation “Last Lecture” was established by the Shepherd University Senate in 2008 to honor an esteemed retiring or retired professor who has served the University and its students through the quality of his or her teaching, scholarship, and/or service to the campus and community. The “Last Lecture” is a unique opportunity to share with McMurren Scholars the wit and wisdom of the best in the higher education teaching profession, as well as an occasion to honor an extraordinary group of young scholars commencing their journey in the learned professions.

Dr. Larry Z. Daily Professor of Psychology McMurren Convocation “Last Lecturer”

Larry Z. Daily is a Professor of Psychology at Shepherd University in Shepherdstown, WV. He grew up in the DC suburbs of Northern Virginia and earned a B.A., an M.A., and a Ph.D. from George Mason University, all in psychology. It was as an undergraduate Psychology major that he became fascinated with memory. His doctoral dissertation focused on the mathematical function that best described the forgetting curve in short-term memory. Following his time at George Mason, Larry took a post-doctoral position at Carnegie Mellon University, where he focused on creating a computational model of human working memory. As a graduate student, Larry recognized a passion for teaching and three years of post-doctoral research confirmed that teaching was his career of choice. He joined the Shepherd faculty in the fall of 2000.

At Shepherd, Larry has taught a variety of classes across the psychology curriculum, from Introduction to Psychology to Senior Thesis. In addition to his specialty courses of Memory and Cognition and the Psychology of Learning, he has most frequently taught Statistics, Research Methods, Directed Readings, and Senior Thesis. He’s especially proud of the team-taught special topics courses he was part of on topics such as Perceptions of Beauty, Human Nature, Fairytales, and Consciousness.

Larry has also served in a wide variety of roles at the university. He served as the Director of Shepherd’s Honors Program and chaired the Department of Psychology (twice). For much of his time at Shepherd, Larry has been a member of the Faculty Senate and is currently serving as the President of that body. Larry chaired what is now the Core Curriculum Committee during the creation of the current core curriculum. He’s also served on the Admissions and Credits and Curriculum and Instruction committees and was a long-time member (and sometimes chair) of Shepherd’s Institutional Review Board.

Larry is retiring from his full-time faculty position this year, but hopes to continue teaching on a part-time basis. He’s also looking forward to having more time to spend with family and friends and more time to devote to writing fantasy novels, building model trains, playing guitar, and hiking in the Blue Ridge Mountains.

Joseph McMurren, Jr. Shepherd College Principal 1871-1882

Joseph McMurren, Jr., was the first principal of Shepherd College. Son of Joseph McMurren Sr., a man of wealth and influence who served in the Virginia State Legislature, Joseph Jr. was born on the family farm about two miles south of Shepherdstown, the fourth of nine children. After attending local schools, McMurren enrolled in Hampton-Sydney College at age 19, graduating in 1852 with a bachelor of arts degree.

Joseph McMurren began teaching in 1852, and for the next nine years held teaching positions in various private schools and academies in the South. He was teaching in Alabama when the Civil War broke out and returned to Virginia to enlist in a unit which later became known as the Stonewall Brigade. As a member of that unit, he participated in all of its campaigns and engagements. Wounded twice—once in the shoulder at Winchester and once in the lung at Gettysburg—McMurren was captured at Kernstown in 1862 and was confined to a Union prison for six months.

After the war, McMurren returned to the Shepherdstown area and began teaching once again. Utilizing the town hall, which had been built by Rezin Shepherd, a New Orleans merchant born near Shepherdstown, McMurren began plans to organize a college. The building had been converted to a courthouse from 1865 to 1871, but became available when the county seat of Jefferson County was moved back to Charles Town. McMurren was the college's principal from 1871 until 1882. A curriculum was established, faculty were employed, and the college began to function in 1871. Financial support from the new state of West Virginia's Legislature was sporadic and uncertain, and McMurren frequently spent money from his own pocket for building maintenance. Although the enrollment gradually increased, McMurren became discouraged, resigning in 1882, to establish a partnership in a drugstore called Baker and McMurren in Shepherdstown.

Joseph McMurren, Jr., always regarded his role in establishing Shepherd College as the most important achievement of his life. After leaving the college, he remained a firm supporter of its projects and endeavors, responding repeatedly to its needs when called upon. His final service to the institution was as member of the Board of Trustees, a position to which he was appointed in 1886. McMurren died on Saint Valentine's Day 1902.

S. Ralph Sherrard
Associate Professor of History, 1968-98

McMurran Scholars Association Scholarship

The award was established in 2011 by the McMurran Scholarship Association (MSA) as part of the celebration of the 50th class of McMurran Scholars and in honor of the first scholars, Sandra Osbourn '62, Garland Ott '62, and Nicholas Pappas '63. This annual scholarship is funded through private donations made through the Shepherd University Foundation. It is awarded to McMurran Scholars who pursue graduate studies at Shepherd University. Information about applying for the scholarship maybe found at www.shepherd.edu/mcmurran/mcmurran-scholars-association.

McMurran Scholars Association Endowment

In 2016, to mark the 55th anniversary of Shepherd's highest academic honor, the McMurran Scholars Association leadership issued a challenge to permanently endow the MSA Scholarship and in fall 2017, the \$25,000 goal of a fully endowed scholarship was reached. The McMurran Scholars Association encourages you to make a donation in honor of a McMurran Scholar, an influential faculty member, or someone in your life who has influenced your success.

To make a gift to the MSA Endowed Scholarship, checks may be made payable to the Shepherd University Foundation, P.O. Box 5000, Shepherdstown, WV 25443 or visit our website at shepherduniversityfoundation.org. For assistance, please contact Meg Patterson, 304-876-5021, mpeterso@shepherd.edu

McMurran Scholars Association Scholarship Past Recipients

2011	Laura Gilpin
2012	Ryan Laspina-Carriger
2013	Teresa Dunham-Cavagnaro
2014	Emily Bannon
2015	Heather Harley
2017	Christopher Korcsmaros
2018	Katie Clark
2019	Emily Browning
2020	Portia Dobrzanski
2021	Paige Palmer
2022	Isabella Hawkinberry
2023	Stephen Rivera
2024	Savannah Garrett
2025	Jillian Allen

Senate Scholarship and Awards Committee

The Scholarship and Awards Committee devises the criteria and appropriate ceremonies for the citation of McMurren Scholars, develops appropriate methods for recognizing outstanding academic scholarship, and manages the Faculty Scholarship. Membership includes two voting faculty representatives from each college, serving a two-year term, a voting chair, and three non-voting members, including the Provost, the Foundation Executive Vice President, and a representative from the McMurren Association. *Bylaws of the Shepherd University Faculty Senate – Article VI, Section 6.3 (d)*

Cindy Vance, CPA, Ph.D.

Co-Committee Chair

Associate Professor of Accounting & Accounting Program Head

College of Business, Recreation, and Education

Sytil Murphy, Ph.D.

Co-Committee Chair

Associate Professor of Physics & Department Chair

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

Mark Cantrell, Ph.D.

Associate Professor of English

College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences

Brooke Comer, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor of Environmental Science

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

Melissa Hall, Ph.D.

Associate Professor of Recreation & Sport Studies

College of Business, Recreation, and Education

Pippa McCullough, MSW, LCSW-C

Assistant Professor of Social Work

College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences

John Steffen, Ph.D.

Associate Professor of Biology

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

Zahra Pourabedin, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor of Business Administration

College of Business, Recreation, and Education

Non-voting Members:

Jack DeRochi, Ph.D.

Provost & Vice-President of Academic Affairs

Katie Swayne

Director of Alumni Affairs

McMurrin Scholars Association Representative

Valerie Wright

Senior Administrative Coordinator to the Provost

