

# Shepherd

UNIVERSITY

## *Magazine*

Volume 20, No. 1 • Fall 2014

*West Virginia Teacher of the Year*  
*Erin Sponaule '03*

IN RECOGNITION OF HIS  
MANY YEARS OF DEDICATED LEA  
RAMON A. ALVAR  
PRESIDENT  
Shepherd University F





Gary Kable

Judge Gina Groh '86 (l.), U.S. District Court for the Northern District of West Virginia, was the President's Award recipient at commencement. She is pictured with Gat Caperton, chair of the Shepherd University Board of Governors, and President Suzanne Shipley.

## 141st Commencement

Seventy master's degrees and 810 baccalaureate degrees were awarded at Shepherd's 141st Commencement May 10. The commencement speaker was Dr. Emir Kamenica, professor of economics at the University of Chicago, who came to the U.S. as a 15-year-old refugee after his father was assassinated by Serbian forces in former Yugoslavia. Alumna GINA GROH '86, a federal judge nominated by President Obama to the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of West Virginia in 2011, was honored during the ceremony with the President's Award for her contributions to her alma mater, profession, and community.



Carolyn Wilkie

Football team members Aaron Dailey (l.) and Xavier Tyler display their customized mortarboards before the ceremony.



Gary Kable

Dr. Emir Kamenica (r.), professor of economics at the University of Chicago's Booth School of Business, served as commencement speaker. He is shown with Dr. Chris Ames, vice president for academic affairs, upon being awarded a doctor of letters honorary degree.



Sagar Agrawal, Rebecca Fridley Boyer, and Erica Marie Burke, students in the master of arts program in college student development and administration, prepare to receive their master's degrees.

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*Editor and Art Director*  
Valerie Owens '76 and '86

*Managing Editors*  
Monica Lingenfelter, Diane Melby

*Contributors this issue:*  
Chip Ransom '86, Kristin Alexander, Kourtney Lowery, Gary Kable, Cecelia Mason, Carolyn Wilkie, Meg Peterson, Timothy D. Haines '95, Zi Wang, Julia Krall, Alexis Reed '06, Cathy Nevy, Robert Shaw, Sylvia Bailey Shurbutt, William Ransom

**Front Cover:** Cecelia Mason

West Virginia Teacher of the Year Erin Sponaugle '03.

**Back Cover:** Zi Wang

West Campus in the spring, from Shepherd's Instagram account @shepherdu.

**ADDRESS CHANGES:** Please contact Rob Shaw, Foundation database manager, 304-876-5195 or [rshaw02@shepherd.edu](mailto:rshaw02@shepherd.edu). You can also change your address online at [shepconnect.shepherd.edu](http://shepconnect.shepherd.edu).

**CLASS NOTES** may be emailed to [alumni@shepherd.edu](mailto:alumni@shepherd.edu). The deadline for the spring 2015 issue is November 1. Photos are welcomed; digital images must be 300 dpi.

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*From the President*

## Capstone experience: A distinguishable identity for Shepherd



Gary Kable

*Dr. Suzanne Shipley*

identify and communicate the distinctive advantage provided through the Shepherd educational experience. We believe that emphasizing the capstone experience, usually the final and quite demanding project that a senior completes at Shepherd, provides compelling evidence of what makes a Shepherd education special. Why did we look to the very end of the Shepherd experience for the most compelling proof of its value?

A significant milestone was achieved when Shepherd was accepted into the Council of Public Liberal Arts Colleges (COPLAC), thereby aligning itself with similar universities that are nationally recognized for their liberal arts programs. In the initial years of our affiliation with COPLAC, Shepherd invested significantly in increasing quality while preserving accessibility and affordability. Curriculum initiatives included developing a core curriculum for the undergraduate program and aligning academic majors and minors with a 120-credit limit. This initiative resulted in improved retention and graduation rates and reduced student costs by increasing the ability to graduate in four years.

Among the requirements that were integrated into the core curriculum as a result of the curriculum revitalization work is a requirement that all students participate in a “capstone experience” prior to graduation. These experiences require that the student “demonstrate a synthesis of, and advanced accomplishment across, general and specialized studies” in their majors.

Over the last several years, faculty members have been working within their academic departments to refine the capstone experience to assist students in developing projects that align their academic interests with their career aspirations. In many cases, the results have been nothing short of spectacular. The quality of the research, presentations, and demonstrations emerging from capstones has earned the praises of a wide variety of reviewers including professionals and community leaders. This past spring, I discussed with the executive staff the idea of identifying unique characteristics of the Shepherd experience that could be used to support student recruitment, communications, and other functions. The capstone immediately resonated as an icon of Shepherd’s academic experience. In addition, it was recognized that

The past academic year points to a forecast of increasingly competitive times ahead for the higher education marketplace. This challenging environment offers the Shepherd University community occasion to review spending, costs, and new avenues for profitability apart from tuition increases. We have updated and invigorated the strategic plan with goals that appeal to today’s parent and student, and these changes reflect a desire to

increased involvement of alumni and community in the presentation of the capstone projects could lead to even greater opportunities for students to make career connections and stronger relationships for the university’s advancement program.

As a first step in furthering the discussion, Dr. Chris Ames, vice president for academic affairs, and Dr. Diane Melby, vice president for advancement, led a discussion with department chairs concerning the possibility of building the university’s identity around the capstone experience. Department chairs eagerly received this discussion, and the result of the conversation was the generation of possible action items, some of which can be implemented in the near future and others that will take more substantial planning. This initiative fits well within the university’s Strategic Plan under Pathway 1: Inspire student learning and development. The university community prioritized a pathway goal to “Ensure a high degree of professional preparation for students,” as second out of 19 initiatives.

Increasing connectivity between students and alumni will support progress toward meeting both goals. With a clearer focus on connections between the college experience and career preparation, Shepherd can better reflect its mission, strategic plan, and identity of a premier liberal arts university. ➦

## R.B.A. adds two emphasis areas

Shepherd’s Regents Bachelor of Arts degree program has introduced two new emphasis areas in business and social issues.

The business emphasis offers seven required courses in accounting, economics, management, business law, ethics, marketing, and business communications. The courses are designed to prepare students for career advancement in a wide variety of fields that require managerial acumen. Foundational courses in economics and accounting give students the broad knowledge they need to understand the context of contemporary business, while more specialized courses provide useful content knowledge.

The social issues emphasis requires six courses from an array of offerings including criminal law, public policy, psychology, criminology, and consumer economics. The social issues emphasis is designed to prepare students for career advancement in fields related to government agencies, social services, nonprofit agencies, health care, and law enforcement.

The Regents Bachelor of Arts degree provides a structured yet flexible means for adult students to complete regular college work and to receive college equivalent credit for selected work and life experiences, as well as military credits. The degree has no major or minor but students can select an emphasis area in business or social issues.

The R.B.A. degree is available at Shepherd’s main campus in Shepherdstown and at the Martinsburg Center, 261 Aikens Center, just off Interstate 81. For more information, visit [www.shepherd.edu/rba/emphases.html](http://www.shepherd.edu/rba/emphases.html) or [martinsburgcenter.info/rba/emphases.html](http://martinsburgcenter.info/rba/emphases.html). ➦

# Sponaugle '03 reflects on her year as W.Va. Teacher of the Year

**L**ife changing and life defining is how West Virginia 2014 Teacher of the Year ERIN SPONAUGLE '03 describes the experiences she's had representing her profession across the state and nation. And Sponaugle credits her time as a Shepherd University student with helping to prepare her for the journey.

On October 9, 2013 the fifth grade teacher at Tomahawk Intermediate School in Berkeley County was named state teacher of the year. That set in motion 12 months of trips (she's put more than 9,000 miles on a Prius she was given to drive), appearances, activities, speaking engagements, and a visit to the White House where she and other teachers of the year were received by President Barack Obama.

"It's so surreal you can't even believe that you're actually in the White House, but you are," she said. "And you walk out the front door and we just kind of look at each other and we're like, 'oh my gosh, we were just in there.'"

In January Sponaugle attended the National Teacher of the Year Conference in Scottsdale, Arizona, where she had the opportunity to meet one of her predecessors, RAE ELLEN SCANLON MCKEE '79, the 1991 West Virginia and National Teacher

of the Year. McKee was teaching Title 1 reading at Slanesville Elementary in Hampshire County when she was selected as National Teacher of the Year. President George H.W. Bush and then Education Secretary Lamar Alexander flew to Slanesville on the presidential helicopter to give McKee the award.

Sponaugle grew up in Berkeley County and graduated from Hedgesville High School. She started attending Shepherd in the spring of 2000, just before receiving her high school diploma. Her teaching career began in Frederick County, Virginia, when she accepted a job as a long-term substitute in August 2003. She earned her bachelor of arts degree in education from Shepherd in December of that year.

Some of Sponaugle's favorite speaking engagements as teacher of the year have been on college campuses, including Shepherd, where she visited with education majors. One of her main messages to these future teachers is that they will never fully understand the impact they're going to have.

"When you step into your classroom that first day of school, you are stepping into the lives of thousands of people—people that you may not meet throughout your teaching career but you are going to impact their lives. Because you have that child in that classroom, you'll impact that family and you'll impact that community," she said.

Sponaugle also tells education majors about the four A's. They are: Ask ques-

tions and ask for what you need; Anticipate what students and parents need so students can be successful; Advocate for the profession; Adapt and be flexible because things are always changing.

"It was No Child Left Behind, now it's Common Core. We don't know what it'll be by the time this group of freshmen entering Shepherd in the fall graduates with a teaching degree," she said. "Education is always throwing something else out there to see if it will work."

Education was not Sponaugle's first degree choice. When she came to Shepherd she briefly majored in communications.

"And although I wasn't a communications major for very long that little bit of a glimpse into the careers and the work of people in the media and those who have to get the message out has really impacted how I choose to get the message out in a role where I am the spokesperson for education," she said.

Sponaugle would like to see more collaboration between professors and students in the education and communication departments at colleges and universities so they can produce the next generation of educational programming "because they come in with the newest perspectives, the freshest ideas. Our college students are very into social media and into what's pop culture today. And there's a great opportunity there to have them work together, those two majors,

(continued on page 7)



Cecelia Mason

Erin Sponaugle '03 and Berkeley the Bear, who will be the subject of a children's book, visited the Shepherd campus this summer.



Photo courtesy Erin Sponaugle

Erin Sponaugle (l.) joined Shepherd alumna Rae Ellen Scanlon McKee '79, the 1991 National Teacher of the Year and West Virginia Teacher of the Year, at the ceremony in Washington, D.C., honoring the state teacher of the year winners.

## West Virginia novelist Homer Hickam to be Appalachian Writer-in-Residence

West Virginia storyteller Homer Hickam will serve as the Appalachian Heritage Writer-in-Residence at Shepherd University and will be on campus the week of September 22 for a variety of events.

He will receive the Appalachian Heritage Writer's Award on Thursday, September 25. The award, funded by the West Virginia Humanities Council, is presented each year to a writer whose body of work evinces the traditions and cultural heritage that shed light on Appalachia and the Appalachian people.

During his residency, Hickam will work with the writer-in-residence committee to conduct the West Virginia Fic-

tion Competition and to produce the seventh volume in the Anthology of Appalachian Writers series, funded in part by the West Virginia Center for the Book and the Shepherd University Foundation.

Growing up in a company town in the late 1950s, young Hickam and his fellow Big Creek High School science nerds, who

called themselves the Big Creek Missile Agency or BCMA, searched for the perfect rocket fuel propulsion, a mission that would win the support of the football-absorbed Coalwood community and eventually a National Science Fair award in 1960. That particular story is the subject of *Rocket Boys*.

After graduating from Virginia Tech in 1964, Hickam entered the army as first lieutenant in the Fourth Infantry Division, serving in Vietnam from 1967-68, during which time he won both an Army Commendation and a Bronze Star. When he left the army six years later, he had risen to the rank of captain. It was after his return from Vietnam that Hickam began to develop his passion for prose, writing for a variety of science magazines, mostly about his scuba-diving adventures.

His first novel, *Torpedo Junction* (1989), was a military history piece published by the Naval Institute Press. That book was followed almost a decade later by his phenomenal best seller *Rocket Boys*, turned into the film *October Sky*, starring Jake Gyllenhaal, Chris Cooper, and Laura Dern. The book put Hickam into the literary spotlight: he received a National Book Critics Circle nomination for Best Biography, a New York Times Great Books award, and Book-of-the-Month honors. *Rocket Boys* was followed by *The Coalwood Way* (2000), "an equal" rather than "a sequel," according to Hickam, and *Sky of Stone* (2001), which completed the series.

During this time, Hickam was following a career in aerospace, a dream fulfilled from his rocket boy days. He worked for 10 years as an engineer for the Army Missile Command in Huntsville, Alabama, and in Germany. Afterward he worked at NASA until he retired in 1998. His job involved training astronauts on science payloads and crews that would service the Spacelab and Shuttle missions, including the Hubble Space Telescope deployment missions and Hubble repair missions.

Among his many awards, Hickam received a 1984 Alabama Distinguished Service Award for heroism, and he carried the

(continued on page 25)

Photo courtesy Homer Hickam



Homer Hickam

## Schedule of Events

### Friday, September 19

7 p.m. • Screening of film *October Sky*, Reynolds Hall, co-sponsored with the Shepherdstown Film Society.

### Monday, September 22

5 p.m. • "Whom God Hath Hedged In: The Social World of the Company Town," Dr. Matthew Foulds, Robert C. Byrd Center for Legislative Studies.  
7 p.m. • "Tales from the Coal Mines," Fred Powers, Byrd CLS.

### Tuesday, September 23

5 p.m. • "From the Mountains to the Stars: Astronomy In and Above West Virginia," Dr. Jason Best, Byrd CLS.  
7 p.m. • "A Celebration of Affrilachian Storytellers: The Anthology of Appalachian Writers and Photographers, with Frank X Walker," Byrd CLS. Anthology reception in Scarborough Reading Room at 8 p.m., co-sponsored by the West Virginia Center for the Book, Shepherd University Foundation, Shepherd Appalachian Studies Program, and Scarborough Library.

### Wednesday, September 24

11 a.m. • Homer Hickam Reading, Martinsburg Public Library.  
7 p.m. • "The Writing Life, with Homer Hickam," Byrd CLS.

### Thursday, September 25

3 p.m. • Writers Master Class with Homer Hickam, Byrd CLS.  
8 p.m. • Scarborough Society Lecture and Awards Ceremony, "The Prodigious Tales of Homer Hickam: West Virginia's Master Storyteller." Hickam presents the W.Va. Fiction Awards (West Virginia Center for the Book), receives the Appalachian Heritage Writer's Award (West Virginia Humanities Council), and presents his keynote address at Erma Ora Byrd Hall, followed by reception and book signing.

### Saturday, September 27

8 p.m. • 19th Annual Appalachian Heritage Festival Concert, Frank Center Theater (ticket required).



## Payne named enrollment VP

**D**r. Shari L. Payne has been named vice president for enrollment management. Reporting to the university president and serving as a member of the executive staff, Payne oversees recruitment and strategic planning to meet Shepherd's targets for undergraduate, graduate, and non-traditional enrollments, as well as the offices of admissions, financial aid, and registrar.



Zi Wang

Dr. Shari L. Payne

"The higher education market is very competitive, and we are grateful to attract a leader of Dr. Payne's caliber to position Shepherd strongly in that market," said President Suzanne Shipley. "Dr. Payne's background in both financial aid and retaining students will be helpful as we determine the most effective way to attract, educate, and graduate students from Shepherd University."

Payne has more than 19 years experience in higher education. Before coming to Shepherd, she served as the dean of engaged learning at Robert Morris University since 2009. Other positions that she has held at RMU include director of academic operations for four years, director of financial aid for six years, manager of the student support center for three years, and financial aid coordinator for three years.

Payne earned an Ed.D. in higher education administration and a bachelor's degree in English writing from the University of Pittsburgh and a master's degree in communication and information systems from RMU. ☛

## New early education degree offered

**S**hepherd University now offers a bachelor of arts degree in early education. The program provides the appropriate theory and skills for undergraduate students who intend to work in early childhood environments including preschool and kindergarten.

The 120-hour degree program was approved by the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission and the West Virginia Department of Education.

Generally coursework for the first 60 credits will be offered at the Shepherdstown campus with the second 60 credits offered at Shepherd's Martinsburg Center which provides many late afternoon and evening classes.

For more information about the early childhood bachelor of arts degree, contact program coordinator Dr. Karin Spencer via email to [kspencer@shepherd.edu](mailto:kspencer@shepherd.edu) or visit [www.shepherd.edu/eduweb/undergraduate.html](http://www.shepherd.edu/eduweb/undergraduate.html) for program requirements and courses. ☛

## Sponaugle is Teacher of the Year

(continued from page 5)

those two different schools of thought, and create some things that are really going to benefit our students."

Aside from incorporating technology into her classroom, Sponaugle uses the skills she learned as a communications major on her YouTube channel called *Be the Difference WV*, where she airs interviews with other teachers. She also uses sites like Blogspot, Facebook, and Twitter to share the various adventures she's experiencing throughout the year, like attending Space Camp in Huntsville, Alabama, and visiting Jill Biden, wife of the vice president and an educator herself, at their official residence.

Sponaugle's constant companion on all these trips is Berkeley the Bear. Berkeley is a stuffed animal, a puppet actually, that Sponaugle uses in her classroom to help teach students about the world around them. When her tenure as Teacher of the Year ends, Sponaugle plans to write a children's book with Berkeley as the central character.

As she looks back on the education she received at Shepherd, she feels it prepared her well. She remembers doing a lot of writing, reflection, and analysis in the classes she took. "And that has really been important to my teaching career because you have to really think about what you're doing and why you're doing it and how you can improve for your students," she said.

Sponaugle said one of the most useful classes she took was called Aesthetic Inquiry, an art class required for all elementary education majors. She now incorporates art into many of her own lessons.

For example, during a history lesson last fall the students in her fifth grade class watched a video about the Trail of Tears and then analyzed a painting depicting the event. She then had them create their own artwork showing what they think it might have been like for the Native Americans who were forced to walk thousands of miles halfway across the country to a strange land.

"Classes like Aesthetic Inquiry, where you think this is not something that directly teaches me how to teach reading or how to teach math, things like that that take you out of the box here at Shepherd are going to help take you out of the box when you're in the classroom and you need to be innovative," she said.

Sponaugle does have a favorite class from her college days: Earth Science, which she took from Dr. Ed Snyder, professor of environmental and physical sciences. Her face lights up and her voice is filled with excitement when she talks about the fun she had in that class.

"You're playing with rocks—and we're big kids—but you're taking the rocks and you're classifying them and you're learning about the structure of the earth," she said. "That's what your classes need to be like, too—they need to be fun and hands on and about discovery and 'oooh look what I found' or 'what's this one?' That level of curiosity is what our kids need to be excited about education and to want to continue their own."

Sponaugle's tenure as teacher of the year ends in October and she returned to her classroom in mid-August. She wants to continue having an impact outside the classroom and hopes to be more involved in higher education and working with future teachers.

☛ Cecelia Mason

## Class Notes

'57

**DR. RAYMOND O. FLAGG** was honored by the Association of Southeastern Biologists (ASB) with the John Herr Lifetime Achievement Award at its 75th annual meeting in April. The award, given to the rare person who had shown unusual dedication to ASB, to research, and to the education of the students in the southeast and beyond, has been awarded only two times: first, in 2007 to Dr. John Herr for whom it is named, and then to Ray for his service to ASB (treasurer 1971-77, president 1978-79), his biological research (54 scholarly papers and articles and 26 presented papers and abstracts), and his service to education (numerous advances in instructional laboratory materials). ASB was established in 1939 to promote the advancement of biology as a science by encouraging research, the imparting of knowledge, the application of knowledge to the solution of biological problems, and the preservation of biological resources. While ASB is open to all persons interested in the biological sciences, most ASB members are professional biologists associated with southeastern colleges and universities.



*Dr. Raymond O. Flagg '57*

Ray has served as president (1983-84) of the North Carolina Academy of Science and is a life member of American Association for the Advancement of Science, Friends of the State Arboretum of Virginia, Friends of UNC Herbarium, Southern Appalachian Botanical Club, and Virginia Academy of Science. Ray's local civic activities include First Presbyterian Church of Burlington (board of deacons chair 1975, elder 1977), Burlington Beautification Commission, (chair 1976-80), Progressive Community Leadership Award (by Northern Piedmont Area Development Association North Carolina, 1977), Williams High School PTA (vice president 1978-79 and president 1979-80), Award of Merit (by City of Burlington, North Carolina, 1980), Burlington Historic District Commission (secretary 1980-81, chair 1981-82), North Carolina Plant Conservation Board (1980-1988, vice chair 1984-88), United Way of Alamance County (board of directors member 1984-88), Alamance Breakfast Rotary Club (secretary 1985-88, president 1988-89, Rotarian of the Year 2006), Business Associate of the Year (by American Business Women's Association, Burlington, N.C., 1986), Burlington Tree Advisory

Committee (vice chair 1993-2000), Schmidt Park Nature Trail (Elon, North Carolina, designed and completed one mile, 2004-05), and Elon Tree Advisory Committee (2007-present).

At Shepherd Ray was named Outstanding Freshman in Biology, Outstanding Freshman in Foreign Languages, Outstanding in the Freshman Class, Outstanding Senior in Biology, and Outstanding Senior in Foreign Languages. He was varsity swim team first diver, Science Club president, and a biology teaching assistant to Professor Ray Harris. After completing his studies at Shepherd, he taught math at Boonsboro, Maryland, High, and then entered the University of Virginia where he earned a Ph.D. in biology in 1961. In 1962 Ray joined Carolina Biological Supply Company as director of botany. He retired in 2003 as executive vice president and currently serves the company as a consultant in living organisms. Ray and his wife of 58 years, Ann, reside in Elon, North Carolina.

'60

**LARRY STRITE**, of Shepherdstown, was inducted into the fifth class of the Martinsburg High School Hall of Fame. A 1955 graduate of Martinsburg High, Larry played football and ran track and was a member of the first Martinsburg undefeated football team. Larry continued that undefeated tradition at Shepherd as a member of the first undefeated football team of 1955.

After a brief stint as a teacher and coach, Larry spent his career in supply chain management at Corning Inc., where he received several awards in recognition of his achievements. Larry is a director emeritus of the Shepherd University Alumni Association and a member of the board of directors of the Shepherd University Foundation.

'73

**CURTIS MASON**, of Herndon, Virginia, was recently inducted into the fifth class of the Martinsburg High School Hall of Fame. A 1963 graduate, he was the West Virginia state champion in cross country and state champion in the mile both his junior and senior years. Curtis has qualified for the Boston Marathon numerous times and completed the JFK 50 Mile Run in less than nine hours. A Vietnam veteran, Curtis served in the Marines from 1964 to 1968. He earned his B.S. from Shepherd and an M.B.A. from Michigan State University. He is a vice president/director of Mid-Atlantic Area Government Contractors and teaches at George Mason University.



*Dr. Mary J.C. Hendrix '74*

'74

**DR. MARY J.C. HENDRIX** was honored with a Vision and Impact Award at the Fourth Annual Women in Science luncheon on May 12. Mary currently serves as president, scientific director, and Children's Research Fund



professor for the Ann and Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago Research Center at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine. After earning her B.S. in biology at Shepherd, Mary received her Ph.D. from George Washington University and an honorary D.Sc. from Shepherd and Lake Forest College.

She was an NIH Research Fellow at Harvard Medical School and professor at the University of Arizona before joining the University of Iowa's faculty as head of the Department of Anatomy and Cell Biology. She has more than 250 scientific publications and is the recipient of a National Cancer Institute MERIT Award and the Distinguished Woman Faculty Award from Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine. Her scientific objectives include identifying genes which contribute to cancer metastasis by studying the convergence of embryonic and tumorigenic signaling pathways, resulting in new prognostic markers and novel therapeutic targets.

'78

**DR. HELEN CAHALANE** was named Social Worker of the Year by a local chapter of the National Association of Social Workers at a ceremony at the University of Pittsburgh. Her work has improved conditions for children and families in the mental health and child welfare system. Helen is currently a clinical associate professor at the School of Social Work at Pitt where she received her master's and doctorate in social work.

**BEVERLY HOFFMASTER** was inducted into the fifth class of the Martinsburg High School Hall of Fame. A 1974 graduate of Martinsburg High, she is an instructional specialist with Berkeley County Schools. She began her career as a teacher, spending her first 16 years in the classroom. She then became an instructional leader. Beverly was named Berkeley County Teacher of the Year and went on to be selected the West Virginia Teacher of the Year in 1992. Beverly was named Shepherd's Outstanding Alumna in 1993 and was awarded the President's Medal in 1992. She received a graduate degree from West Virginia University.

'86

**TODD HOFFMASTER** was inducted into the fifth class of the Martinsburg High School Hall of Fame. He is a 1982 graduate of Martinsburg High where, as a student, he began serving as a statistician and scorekeeper for the Bulldog basketball program and continued in this role for 37 years. Todd graduated from Shepherd University in 1986 with a bachelor of science degree in accounting. Todd is currently employed by the Center for Orthopedic Excellence as chief financial officer.

**LYNN NAJAKA** received the Washington Post's Agnes Meyer Outstanding Teacher Award, which is given annually to a private school teacher in the Washington, D.C., area who exemplifies excellence in his/her profession. Lynn teaches at the Primary Day School in Bethesda, Maryland. She has been teaching for 25 years and her story was featured in the *Washington Post Magazine*. She is married to **GARY NAJAKA '87** and they have two daughters, Karly, a sophomore at Shenandoah University, and Kelsey, a high school sophomore.

'97

**ANGELA TITUS**, a board-certified family nurse practitioner, joined the staff of Shenandoah Community Health in Martinsburg. Angela earned her master of science in nursing as a family nurse practitioner from Shenandoah University in 2011, a bachelor of science in nursing from Shenandoah University in 2010, and an associate of science in nursing from Shepherd in 1997.

Angela has more than 15 years of experience in caring for patients in a variety of settings. She is seeing pediatric, adult, and geriatric patients at Shenandoah Community Health. Her professional interests include preventive medicine, chronic diseases and symptom management, advance care planning, and patient education. Her personal interests include spending time with her family, reading, and singing on the worship team at her church.

'99

**MATTHEW T. KRADEL**, a trust/investments officer with First United Trust and Investments in Martinsburg, was featured recently in the *Rotarian Magazine*, a national publication distributed to more than a million Rotary members nationwide. The article recounts Matthew's experience as a Rotary Youth Exchange student in Spain as an 18 year old.

'04

**SARA B. MOORE** graduated from George Mason University with a Ph.D. in sociology in December 2013. She accepted a position as assistant professor of sociology at Salem State University in Massachusetts beginning this fall. Currently she is an instructor for the Department of Sociology and Anthropology, an instructor for the Department of Women and Gender Studies, and a researcher for the Center for Social Science Research.

'06

Grammy-nominated jazz and R&B singer **CAROLYN MALACHI** performed the national anthem before the 2014 NCAA Women's Final Four national semifinal games in Nashville, Tennessee, on April 6. Carolyn, a Washington, D.C., native and former student-athlete at Shepherd, released her critically acclaimed album *GOLD* in July 2013. Carolyn's performance brings the artist full circle from her days playing college basketball at Shepherd. She holds the distinction of being the first former NCAA women's basketball player to have received a Grammy nomination.

'09

**AIR FORCE AIRMAN 1ST CLASS JASON R. MITCHELL** graduated from basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, San Antonio, Texas. Jason completed an intensive, eight-week program that included training in military discipline and studies, Air Force core values, physical fitness, and basic warfare principles and skills. He earned distinction as an honor graduate. ☛



Photo courtesy Rotarian Magazine

Matthew T. Kradel '99



Carolyn Wilkie

## Class of 1964 inducted into the Emeritus Club

*Members of the Class of 1964 were inducted into the Emeritus Club at the annual luncheon held May 8 in the Student Center. More than 80 alumni and their guests attended the event. Dr. Carol Van Evera Durand was elected president and Barbara Puckett Greenstreet was elected vice president of the Emeritus Club, an organization made up of alumni who graduated 50 or more years ago from Shepherd.*

*Members of the Class of 1964 in attendance were, front row, l. to r., Dr. Carol Van Evera Durand, Joyce Pulley Deputy, Barbara Puckett Greenstreet, and back row, Charles Higdon, George Pitzer, John Deputy, Edwin Stanfield, and Robert Grim.*

**Calling  
RAM BAND  
ALUMNI**

The Music Department and the Ram Band are gearing up for another exciting year, and they want you to be a part of it! A Ram Band Reunion is planned for Homecoming Weekend 2014, October 31 and November 1. If you are interested in reconnecting with fellow Ram Band members and have not already contacted the Shepherd Office of Alumni Affairs,



Scott Hippensteel

please send your current contact information to [alumni@shepherd.edu](mailto:alumni@shepherd.edu) with "Ram Band Reunion" as the subject line. Go Rams!



# Homecoming 2014

## SUAA Events

**Oct.  
31**

10 a.m., October 31  
**23rd Annual Alumni Association  
Golf Tournament**

The tournament will be held at Cress Creek Golf and Country Club. For more information, please contact the Office of Alumni Affairs at [alumni@shepherd.edu](mailto:alumni@shepherd.edu) or 304-876-5524.

12 p.m., October 31  
**Chalk Talk**

Get an insider's look at Shepherd athletics during the \$10-lunch.

3 p.m., October 31  
**Founders Day Celebration**

The parade will start at McMurrin Hall and end at Butcher Center Plaza.

**Nov.  
1**

9 p.m., November 1  
**Alumni Breakfast**

Join us on the front lawn of McMurrin Hall for breakfast, then grab the best seat for the Homecoming parade. Complimentary breakfast hosted by the Shepherd University Alumni Association and Shepherd University Foundation.

10 a.m. to 4 p.m., November 1  
**Bookstore Open**

The Bookstore is pleased to offer SUAA sustaining members a 10 percent discount on regularly priced items when they present their SUAA sustaining membership card at the time of purchase. Visit online at [www.shepherdbook.com](http://www.shepherdbook.com).

10:15 a.m., November 1  
**Homecoming Parade**  
German Street.

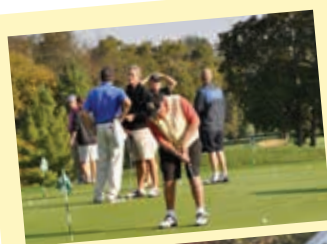
Noon, November 1  
**Game Time: Rams vs. Glenville State University**

Ram Stadium. SUAA members please note: only sustaining level members will receive complimentary Homecoming football game tickets. Sustaining members can pick up their tickets at the Office of Alumni Affairs, October 27-29 from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., at the golf tournament on October 31, or at the Alumni Breakfast on November 1.

Halftime  
**Introduction of the 2014 Homecoming Court**

4 to 8 p.m., November 1  
**Alumni Association  
Homecoming Post-Game Party**

Everyone is welcome to celebrate after the game at the Clarion Hotel and Conference Center; \$5 admission. It is Halloween weekend so if you want to dress up in costume, please feel free to do so. A prize goes to the best costume!



*Shepherd University  
Homecoming*



*Shepherd University  
Homecoming*

## Young alumni at work

## New Alumni Association board members recall their days at Shepherd

### Q&A with Blake Truman '04

Blake Truman earned a bachelor's degree in business administration and political science. Since graduation, he has been with VerStandig Broadcasting, a leading radio broadcaster in the area with one AM and three FM stations. He is the general manager of the group and serves on the board of directors for the Chambersburg Chamber of Commerce, Hagerstown Rotary, and Shepherd University Alumni Association and has worked with various charities over the past several years.

**How did your experience at Shepherd or your coursework prepare you for your career or your career track?**

I specifically remember my favorite class which was International Business my senior year with Dr. Mark Patton. Dr. Patton had spent time overseas and had real-life experience in internal sales and the ability to sell. He made you think about things in a different way. He didn't teach the normal classroom structure. He related everything to the real world and had real world expectations. If you did not complete an assignment by the due date, you earned a zero. That was it. In the working world if you do not show up for work or complete your job duties, you do not get a second chance. His style of teaching and expectations helped build my sales experience and interest and that is what made me decide to go into sales. I am thankful for Dr. Patton because I feel his class was the starting point of my journey to become one of the youngest general managers in radio today.



Blake Truman '04

**What was your toughest class at Shepherd?**

I had originally wanted to go to law school so I had a Supreme Court Law class and it was the toughest class. I had to use five blue books for the final.

**Were there any classes or programs you wish you had taken while at Shepherd?**

I wish I had taken advantage of more of the programs and activities on campus in general. I was a commuter and was working so I didn't have a lot of free time. Looking back I see all the opportunities that Shepherd provides to become involved and I would encourage students to be involved in as much as they can while at Shepherd. It can only help prepare you for life after graduation.

**Why is the Shepherd University Alumni Association important to you? What do you hope to bring to the Alumni Association Board during your term?**

The SUAA is important to me because I want to stay connected. It's a way to be involved with activities and programs that provide both social and career networking which is very impor-

tant for your career. I have experience in sales and dealing with people so I hope to bring some fresh ideas on how to market the Alumni Association.

**What advice would you give to current seniors who are preparing to graduate?**

My advice would be two things: 1. Practice interviewing!!! Practice, practice, practice. You need to know how to interact with people. Take advantage of every opportunity to practice an interview. 2. Be prepared to work hard! If you have a dream job in mind, be prepared to put in time and effort to make it happen.

### Spotlight on Lindy Ybarra '11

Lindy Ybarra is senior international admissions representative at American Public University System.

**Back in the day...** Lindy worked as an office assistant in the Community Service and Service Learning Center and the Multicultural Student Affairs and Disability offices. This heavy workload along with her coursework as a business major led to an erratic day. "I would wake up at 3:30 a.m. to do homework and then leave at 7 a.m. for class or work," she said. Lindy's day would end late as she participated in the Multicultural Leadership Team and was head chair for Relay for Life and president of Rotaract from 2008 to 2009. But Lindy was filled with an urge to serve, even if it was not in an official capacity. She said, "People would come up to me and say, 'so and so said you were good at résumés, so could you help me write mine?'"

Lindy's commitment to people and service carries over in her daily life. At American Public University, she continues to work with students, guiding them through the admissions process which includes the routine paperwork and procedures, but this work is rewarded when "something happens which can help the students," Lindy said. Advising and interacting with current and prospective students is her favorite task.



Lindy is finishing up her term on two committees at work: wellness and community service.

Lindy Ybarra '11

She continues her work for Relay for Life to this day. Lindy is a new Shepherd University Alumni Association board member and makes a 25th hour in order to commit to the organization because "Shepherd gave me so many opportunities I would not have elsewhere. I really squeezed that lemon. I was so grateful in seeing the sun every morning." Her positive experience also extended to the cordiality of the Shepherd community. "People would just say 'hi' to me, which is not typical in Mexico City—everyone is too busy," she said. Many new gradu-



ates and their families were able to meet Lindy at the Zero Year Reunion after commencement in May where she helped out at the Alumni Association table at the reception.

## Q&A with Rachel Crum '08

**A** Maryland native, Rachel Crum currently resides in Kearneysville. Rachel, who earned a bachelor's degree in secondary education, biology concentration, is the community services and service learning coordinator for Shepherd University in the Office of Student Engagement where she works to connect student volunteers with nonprofit agencies in the community and coordinates service learning projects for the campus. A member of the Shepherdstown Community Club Board and the Shepherd University Alumni Association Board, Rachel enjoys working with the student-led committee that plans Relay for Life each year.



Rachel Crum '08

**How did your experience at Shepherd or your coursework prepare you for your career or your career track?**

I was a very involved student while at Shepherd. I developed a strong passion for the community while attending and that passion never left. When I first graduated, I was working as a pharmacy technician and I found myself hosting canned food drives, donation drives, and many other community service projects. I realized this is what I want to do for my career. This is where my heart is telling me to go.

**Were there any classes or programs you wish you had taken while at Shepherd?**

As I mentioned, I was a very involved student and I am very thankful for the opportunities Shepherd provided me. This experience shaped my passion for nonprofit work. If I could go back I wish I would have participated in the Study Abroad program.

**Why is the Shepherd University Alumni Association important to you? What do you hope to bring to the Alumni Association Board during your term?**

The SUAA is important to me because I want to connect current students with alumni. Alumni have many different experiences that students can benefit from. For my current job it is very important for students to have a positive experience while at Shepherd, and alumni can play a very important role in shaping their experience. I enjoy making lasting connections with alumni and friends in the community. I hope during my term on the board of directors I can create more opportunities for alumni and student engagement.

**What advice would you give to current seniors who are preparing to graduate?**

My advice would be to stay true to who you are, and you need to love what you do! ☺

## Alumni chapter updates

### What's going on in your neck of the woods?

As mentioned in the spring 2014 issue of the magazine, the Shepherd University Alumni Association has started working with alumni throughout the country to establish regional clubs. These clubs involve alumni in local communities coming together to plan events and programs that provide networking and socializing opportunities. The SUAA hopes the club approach will help strengthen professional and personal bonds with Shepherd alumni throughout the country.

This past November, EUGENE B. SMITH '76 hosted a reception at his art gallery in Winchester, Virginia. This event launched the planning for a Winchester group to be the second regional club. The SUAA wants to keep the momentum going, so if you are in the Winchester area and would like to become a member of this club or would like to start a regional club, please contact the Office of Alumni Affairs at 304-876-5157 or via email to [alumni@shepherd.edu](mailto:alumni@shepherd.edu). Please include your name and current address so that we can put you in touch with other alumni in your area.

### Bringing in more Rams!

Effective July 1, 2014 the Shepherd University Alumni Association made the transition to a non-dues paying organization by recognizing all Shepherd University graduates as members of the SUAA. Although the SUAA is no longer asking alumni to "pay their dues," it will continue to rely on your support, whether it means attending an event, volunteering on behalf of Shepherd, or making a gift to support the SUAA's programs. The association is grateful for the financial support from loyal alumni donors and is proud to say that over the past five years the SUAA has been able to provide more than \$250,000 to support various programs to advance Shepherd and our alumni. More information and updates are available on [shepconnect.shepherd.edu](http://shepconnect.shepherd.edu) and SUAA social media.

*How do I make a gift to support the SUAA?*

Contributions can be made by check or credit card and are tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law. Contributions can be mailed to the Office of Alumni Affairs at P.O. Box 5000, Shepherdstown, WV 25443. Please indicate on the notes section of your check: Shepherd University Alumni Association.

To make your gift online via credit card, please visit [shepconnect.shepherd.edu](http://shepconnect.shepherd.edu). ☺

### Save the date for Social Work celebration

The Social Work program will celebrate its 40th year on October 3. For more information, contact Dr. Geri Crawley-Woods at [gcwoods@shepherd.edu](mailto:gcwoods@shepherd.edu). ☺

## Obituaries

**LOUISE GATRELL NOLD '35**, of Hamilton, Virginia, died May 8, 2014. She worked in the family apple orchard business, the Rothwell-Gatrell Fruit Company, as an accountant. In 1941 she married and moved to Falls Church, Virginia. During World War II, she volunteered with the Emergency Medical Service of the Motor Corps of the American Red Cross and served as an observer with the U.S. Army Aircraft Warning Service.

**FRANCES LOUISE KNODE CHRISTMAN '37**, of Shepherdstown, died January 11, 2014. A member of Sigma Sigma Sigma sorority and Kappa Delta Pi honorary education society, she was a business education teacher at Hedgesville High School until her marriage in 1942. She was a member of Shepherdstown Housing Authority, Shepherdstown Historic Commission, and the Daughters of the American Revolution.

**ELEANOR ELIZABETH OLIVER STIPE '40**, Damascus, Maryland, died January 31, 2014. She met the love of her life, **HARRY V. STIPE '39**, when they were both students and athletes at Shepherd. They married in 1942 and celebrated their 57th anniversary before Harry's death in 1999. She taught in schools in Montgomery and Carroll counties. In 1990 Eleanor was the first woman elected to the Athletic Hall of Fame at Shepherd. Both Eleanor and Harry were honored to be inducted into the Hall of Fame and were dedicated supporters of athletic events at Shepherd.

**HELEN BOLTZ KING MURPHY '44**, of Rochester, New York, died January 21, 2014. After graduating from Shepherd, she married in 1947 and moved to Rochester in 1948 where she was director of the medical library at Highland Hospital, Rochester.

**MARGARET HEFLEBOWER CEPELKA HENCH '47**, of Charles Town, died January 1, 2014. She started her teaching career in 1947 at Berryville, Virginia, High School and continued until her retirement from Clarke County, Virginia, High School in 1970. She was a member of the Clarke County Retired Teachers and a life member of the Virginia Education Association. She attended James Madison College.

**JAMES "ROB" ROBERTSON '52**, of Belvedere, California, died December 1, 2012. He held a master's degree from Penn State and taught and coached for 30 years at Ramsey High School in New Jersey. He is survived by his wife, **MARY GRANT ROBERTSON '52**, who resides in Corte Madera, California.

**SUSAN OLIVER BARRICK '54**, of Cobbs Creek, Virginia, died April 20, 2014. She retired from the Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS) as a research librarian and was credited for establishing the institute's library. She earned a master's degree from Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio.

**THE REVEREND JOHN EVANS WRIGHT '56**, of Bunker Hill, died May 23, 2014. He attended Westminster Theological Seminary and Wesley Theological Seminary, where he earned a master of divinity in 1960. He served as minister for Methodist churches in

Jefferson and Berkeley counties. He served in the Army National Guard and later in the United States Air Force Reserve. He was promoted to colonel and, upon his retirement in 1991, he was promoted to the honorary rank of brigadier general. He also served on the Berkeley County Commission from 1968 to 1990 and from 1998 to 2005.

**GEORGE DAVID COOPER '57**, of Shepherdstown, died November 17, 2013. He was a doctor of psychology with the Maryland Division of Corrections. He received his Ph.D. in clinical psychology from Duke University in 1962.

**MARY "JOAN" SILER KERSHNER '57**, of Charles Town, died May 13, 2014. She taught for 28 years in Jefferson County, beginning her career at Shepherdstown Elementary. She also taught at Wright Denny, Ranson, and Blue Ridge before settling in at South Jefferson Elementary. She was a member of the Retired Teachers Association and Independent Fire Company Women's Auxiliary.

**DAVID DALE MCCLUNG '65**, of Martinsburg, died May 11, 2014. A McMurrin Scholar, he earned a master's degree in education from Shippensburg University in 1968 and a certificate of administration from Western Maryland College. He was a teacher at Hedgesville Elementary, principal at Hedgesville Elementary for 29 years, and principal of West Seaford Elementary School in Seaford, Delaware, finishing his career with Frederick County School System in Virginia, retiring in June 2006.

**MARY ANNE UMBLE '66**, of Berkeley Springs, died Tuesday, January 14, 2014. She retired in 2012 as a teacher with Morgan County Public Schools. She earned a master's degree from West Virginia University.

**MICHAEL JOHN FAGLEY '67**, of Martinsburg, died May 8, 2014. He held positions in sales and marketing with various organizations during his career, retiring in 2004.

**DONALD L. MYERS '68**, American University's chief financial officer, vice president, and treasurer, died on January 6, 2014. His career at American lasted four decades, including 32 years as its chief financial officer. He started at AU as an entry-level accountant and earned his master of business administration in finance in the evening program. He established the **DONALD L. MYERS SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENT** in support of Shepherd students majoring in business administration, economics, or accounting.

**RUTH KEEFE GRIMM '68**, of Williamsport, Maryland, died December 28, 2013. She was a teacher at Broadway and Potomac Heights elementary schools, retiring in 1975. She was a member of the Washington County Teachers Association, AARP, Ladies of the Elks, Washington County Hospital Auxiliary, and a life-long member of the Maryland Congress of Parents and Teachers.

**DIXIE KAY HOUSER LEMON '69**, of Ranson, died March 16, 2014. She taught school at Page Jackson Elementary School in Charles



Town for 32 years, retiring in 2000. She was a member of the NEA, West Virginia Teachers Association, and AZT.

**ROBERT E. DRAWBAUGH '70**, of Newville, Pennsylvania, died March 31, 2014. He received an associate of arts degree from Lee College in Tennessee and a master of education from Shippensburg. He taught in the Cumberland Valley Schools for 35 years before retiring in January 2005. He was a member of the Pennsylvania Forestry Association, Pennsylvania Stewardship Program, and the Cumberland Woodland Association.

**JAMES FRANCIS FELCH II '75**, of Centreville, Virginia, died December 27, 2013. He did purchasing work for major hotel chains and spent much of his career in the hospitality industry, working mostly in the purchasing department for chains including Marriott and Hilton.

**DUANE "DUKE" CALLOWAY '76**, of Mount Hope, died March 3, 2014. While at Shepherd he played football. He was employed as a correctional officer, postal clerk, security worker, and was a member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity.

**VERNE COLLEEN MILLER '76**, of Martinsburg, died December 13, 2013. During her 37-year career as an educator in Berkeley County, she was a fourth grade teacher at Rosemont Elementary and Orchard View Intermediate. She was a member of Delta Kappa Gamma Society International, Eta Chapter, and received the Musselman High School Outstanding Alumna Award in 2013. She earned her master of arts degree in elementary education from West Virginia University.

**IMOGENE B. CANBY '78**, of Martinsburg, died March 11, 2014. She worked for 39 years at the Department of Health and Human Services. In 1988 she started her more than 25-year career teaching with the Berkeley County School System and as an adjunct faculty member at Shepherd University and Blue Ridge Community and Technical College. She was also a real estate agent for Coldwell Banker for more than 20 years. She earned a master's degree in communications from West Virginia University.

**FLORENCE ANN VICKERS '79**, of Kearneysville, died May 24, 2014. She received her master's degree from West Virginia University. She was a member of the Eastern Star and CEOs and was a 4-H extension agent and teacher.

**JOHN OWEN JACKSON '04**, of Harpers Ferry, died May 23, 2014. He was employed with Budget Pest Control. John was a two-time West Virginia High School State Champion wrestler and a two-time All-American wrestler.

**JOHN PATRICK BLANC '09**, of Morgantown, died April 1, 2014. After graduating from the West Virginia University College of Law in 2012, he joined the Shuman, McCuskey and Slicer Law Firm in Morgantown. He was editor of the West Virginia Law Review and was a constitutional law Dean's Fellow in the Academic Excellence Program. ☛

## Nationwide insurance partners with Shepherd Alumni Association

**T**om Jones has been a Nationwide agent for 32 years, and his partnership with Shepherd University Alumni Association has been a major part of his agency since 2005. Nationwide has partnered with the Alumni Association to offer special members-only auto insurance discounts to Shepherd University alumni. Currently 453 alumni have Nationwide insurance. The partnership with Nationwide also provides the Alumni Association support in return; this year the SUAA received more than \$9,000 to support programs and events such as the Zero-Year Reunion. This partnership provides alumni with a trusted contact for all their insurance needs and also helps to give back to the Shepherd community at the same time.

The Fargo-Jones Insurance Agency has three convenient West Virginia locations. Their licensed professional staff has the experience and expertise to serve members of the Shepherd University alumni community. The agency's guiding principal is ethical hard work, which is backed by their reputation of providing exemplary service, knowledge, and trust. The Fargo-Jones Insurance Agency takes pride in investing their time and treasure back into the communities. As a third generation agency, Fargo-Jones understands insurance is not a one-size-fits-all solution; every individual is different and needs a customized plan. Clients are contacted on a regular basis and receive an On Your Side Review to help prevent gaps in coverage and to make any necessary policy adjustments. Tom's clients value these policy reviews and they also make a big difference in the success of the agency. The Fargo-Jones Insurance Agency was awarded West Virginia's Agency of the Year in 2010 by Nationwide insurance. The agency motto is "let our family protect your family."

### Five reasons to choose Nationwide for car insurance

#### 1 *Car insurance for less with a members-only discount*

As a member of Shepherd University Alumni Association, you're eligible for an exclusive discount.

#### 2 *Safe drivers get a free pass*

When you add vanishing deductible, you can take \$100 off your deductible each year for safe driving (up to a total savings of \$500).

#### 3 *Better claims service*

Four out of five policyholders who have filed a claim would recommend Nationwide to a friend or family member.

#### 4 *Repair guarantee*

With Nationwide's worry-free claims service, you get 24/7 access, a 100 percent guarantee on repairs, plus 24-hour On Your Side auto repair updates.

#### 5 *On Your Side Review*

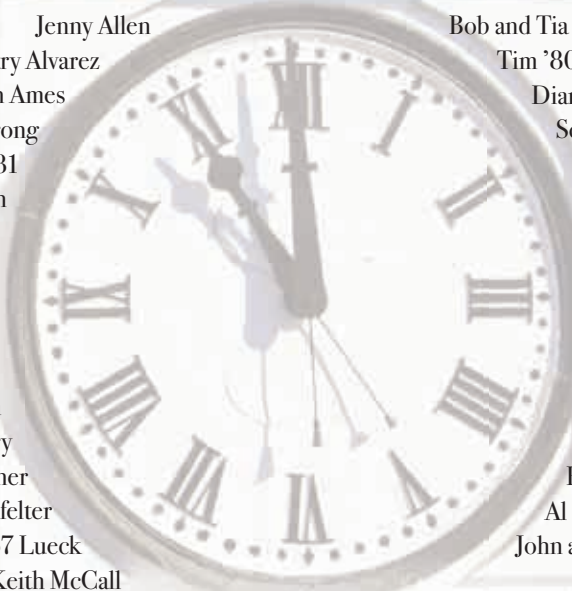
Make sure your car insurance coverage keeps up with your life. A Nationwide On Your Side Review helps you see the big picture, so you can get the auto insurance coverage that fits your needs, goals, and budget.

Nationwide Insurance and the Shepherd University Alumni Association are working together for you. Call Tom Jones today for a quote at 304-725-3434.

## Shepherd UNIVERSITY LEADERSHIP CIRCLE

Shepherd University is pleased to acknowledge the generous contributions of the charter members of the Leadership Circle.

### *Charter Members*



Jenny Allen	Bob and Tia McMillan
Ray '62 and Mary Alvarez	Tim '80 and Carole McShea
Chris and Lauren Ames	Diane and Dave Melby
Paul '70 and Judy '70 Armstrong	Scott '80 and Linda '81 Roach
Rodney Bartgis '81	R.B. Seem '04
Scott Beard and Alan Gibson	Norma Siler '54
Ken '76 and Natasha Boone	Stephen Skinner and Jeffrey Gustafson
Marcia Brand and Mark Outhier	Mike '89 and Wendy Smith
Gat and Susan Caperton	Jack '81 and Debbie Thayer
Len Frenkil and Julia Davis	Susan '70 and Paul Thorniley
Lily Hill	Austin '57 and Edna Jean '61 Webber
Michael Hudson	Paul and Lisa Welch
Stan and Judy Ikenberry	Karl Wolf '70
Chris '74 and Debbie '74 Koerner	Patty '77 and Bill Wright
Bill and Monica Lingenfelter	Al '89 and Laura Young
Al '67 and Sara '67 Lueck	John and Lisa Younis
Holly '04 and Keith McCall	

Membership in the Leadership Circle is extended to individuals who have shown uncommon commitment to Shepherd's academic excellence through their annual support. Their willingness to invest in Shepherd through annual gifts of \$1,000 to \$5,000 has set the leadership standard for all alumni and friends of Shepherd University. Their gifts to the university are a true demonstration of Shepherd passion and pride.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the Leadership Circle or making an annual gift—of any size—to support The Shepherd Fund, please contact Julia Krall, director of annual giving, via email to [jkrall@shepherd.edu](mailto:jkrall@shepherd.edu) or by phone at 304-876-5526. ☎

## New Arrivals

JENNIFER DUKE PIRTLE '97 and husband Dean, a son, Victor Ian, born November 19, 2013. He joins big brother Winston. The family resides in Bluffton, South Carolina.

SHARON KRAVITZ HALL '05 and husband Chris, a daughter, Layla Abrielle, born May 16, 2014. She joins big sister Leah. ☎

## Family and Consumer Sciences program to celebrate 100th anniversary with reception October 31

The Family and Consumer Sciences (FACS) program is celebrating 100 years at Shepherd with a homecoming centennial reception on Friday, October 31, 5:30-7 p.m., at the front portico of Stutzman-Slonaker Hall. In the event of bad weather, the event will be held inside the building, SS 210. All former family and consumer sciences and home economics students are invited to attend the reception. For more information about the event, contact Dr. Kathy Corpus, [kcorpus@shepherd.edu](mailto:kcorpus@shepherd.edu), or Dr. Cydne Perry, [cperry03@shepherd.edu](mailto:cperry03@shepherd.edu).



# Shepherd adds three to Athletic Hall of Fame

**T**he Shepherd University Athletic Hall of Fame will induct three new members this fall at the annual induction banquet on Friday, October 10 at the Clarion Hotel and Conference Center in Shepherdstown. Longtime assistant football coach Bob Haley and baseball standout **MIKE SPRY '09** join football star **CHRIS FIELD '04** as the 29th class to be inducted. The “terrific three” bring the total number of members in the Shepherd Athletic Hall of Fame to 136.

The trio will also be honored at the Shepherd–UVa–Wise football game on Saturday, October 11 as part of Hall of Fame Weekend festivities.

## Bob Haley

Haley, of Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, was an assistant coach with the Shepherd football team in 1997 and from 1999 to 2010. Haley served as a defensive coordinator from 2000 to 2010. The Rams won seven conference titles and made five NCAA II post-season appearances during his tenure.

His 2005 defense topped NCAA II schools in pass efficiency defense, while his 2006 squad led the nation in scoring defense and posted a record six shutouts that season. Shepherd's Haley-led defenses topped the WVIAC in rushing defense five times and total defense four times.

## Mike Spry '09

Spry, of Martinsburg, was a standout on the Shepherd baseball team from 2000 to 2003. He was a two-time first team All-Region and first team All-WVIAC selection. He led the Rams to a regional appearance in 2002 and helped Shepherd advance to the championship game as an All-Regional Tournament choice. Named Regional Player of the Year in 2003, Spry also garnered second team All-American honors.

Spry held Shepherd season records for most home runs (17), runs batted in (57), and total bases (133). He had Shepherd career marks for most home runs (40), most runs batted in (177), total bases (391), games played (164) and tied the career records for

doubles (43) and runs scored (148). He went on to play professional baseball in the Frontier League and also had stints as an assistant coach for the Rams.

## Chris Field '04

Field, of Mineral, Virginia, was a four-year player for the Shepherd football team from 1997 to 2000. A three-time All-WVIAC selection and two-time first team choice at defensive end, Field was a member of three conference champion teams (1997, 1998, 1999) and two regional participant squads (1998, 1999).

A senior team captain and runner-up for WVIAC Defensive Player of the Year honors, he gained National Strength and Conditioning Association (NSCA) All-American honors in 2000. He topped the team in sacks and tackles-for-loss for two seasons and finished his career ranked third all-time in sacks with 28.5. He later went on to play for the Richmond Speed of the Arena 2 Football League for a pair of seasons.

The Athletic Hall of Fame banquet will begin with a social hour at 6 p.m. followed by the dinner and induction ceremony at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$35 and will be available for purchase through the Shepherd University Office of Advancement by calling 304-876-5527 or 304-876-5524. ♡ *Chip Ransom*

## Accounting Club holds annual alumni dinner

**T**he Shepherd University Accounting Club held its annual accounting alumni dinner on April 24, 2014 in the Storer Ballroom.

Thirteen students, 11 alumni, and seven faculty/staff enjoyed the networking event, which included a meal, games, and conversation. The accounting club is led by Shepherd alumna **CINDY VANCE '88**, assistant professor of accounting. Student leaders of the club are Tara Mallow, president; Laura Gentile, vice president; Josh Parker, secretary; and Robert Walling treasurer.

The Alumni Association sponsored the student meals and door prizes. The club leadership thanks everyone who made donations; the club received more than \$800. To stay up to date with the club, visit its Facebook page or follow the club on Twitter @SUAcctClub. ♡



*Gina Michele Miller '10 and Robert W. Walters were married on May 29, 2014 in Naples, Florida. Gina is the president of Millers Electric Company Inc., located in Martinsburg. She earned her master's degree from Mountain State University.*

## Volleyball and women's basketball coaches named

**D**irector of athletics B.J. Pumroy announced that Camilo Guerri has been named head volleyball coach for the Rams and that Jenna Eckleberry has been named head women's basketball coach.

Guerri comes to Shepherd after spending the past three seasons as an assistant volleyball coach at Fairmont State. He helped lead the Falcons to a 78-23 (.772) mark over the past three seasons. Guerri was very involved in the game day strategy and practice planning for the Falcons. He assisted in the development of standout outside hitter Bri Swann. Swann was a three-time first team All-Conference and three-time All-Region selection who also garnered Academic All-American honors.

"We are excited to announce that Camilo Guerri has been named the head volleyball coach," said Pumroy. "Camilo brings extensive experience as a player and a coach at the high school, club, and collegiate levels. He played a significant role in the recent success at Fairmont State. Our team has had success that meets our department's expectations in the classroom and in the community. We believe Coach Guerri can direct us to the level of on-court achievement that has not yet been reached. We are looking forward to beginning a new era of Shepherd volleyball."

The Falcons posted a 24-9 record in his first season and have recorded back-to-back 27-7 marks for the past two seasons. Fairmont State advanced to the conference tournament finals in 2013 and the semifinals in 2012. Prior to coaching at Fairmont State, Guerri coached club volleyball in North Carolina and Cincinnati.

Guerri had a successful career as a volleyball player at Mount Olive College. A four-year starter for the Trojans, Guerri served as team captain for a squad that posted a 17-4 record and won

a conference championship during his senior season. Guerri was second in the nation in hitting percentage (.484) and 14th in the country in blocks per game that year.

Jenna Eckleberry has spent the last seven seasons as an assistant coach at Fairmont State University. Fairmont State has recorded a 139-69 mark (.668) over that period and had a winning season in each of her seven years with the program. The Falcons won three conference titles and made three NCAA postseason appearances over that period.

"Jenna Eckleberry brings an impressive background both as a player and a coach," said Pumroy. "She has played a big part in the success at Fairmont State and learned under Coach Steve McDonald who is well respected as an x's and o's coach. We feel she is a great fit to lead our team on-and-off the court."

Eckleberry helped mentor 2012 WVIAC Player of the Year, Atlantic Region Player of the Year, and Second Team All-American Kaitlyn Snyder. Snyder was also a first team All-Region choice as a senior and was the program's all-time leading scorer.

Eckleberry played three seasons at Fairmont State after transferring from NCAA Division I Robert Morris. She helped lead the Falcons to their first NCAA postseason appearance in her first season. As a junior she ranked eighth in assists per game (6.2) while her 180 assists were the fifth most in program history. As a senior she ranked seventh in the country in assists per game (6.7) and gained honorable mention All-WVIAC honors. Eckleberry led the league in assist/turnover ratio (2.81) that year and set a school record with 17 assists against West Chester. Her 411 career assists are the sixth most in school history. She was named the Colebank Award winner as the school's top female senior athlete. *— Chip Ransom*



### Lott garners Capital One Academic All-American accolades

Michael Lott '14, of Woodbridge, Virginia, was named to the 2014 Capital One Academic All-America® Division II Baseball Team, as selected by the College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA).

Lott, the first baseball player to gain first team honors, joins Chad Murphy (a second team choice in 2013), Brian Collins (a third team choice in 2010), Keith Koenig (a second team choice in 1997), and Ty Hart (a third team choice in 1997) as Shepherd baseball players who gained Academic All-American honors.

Lott led the Rams with his .404 batting average, while also topping the charts in hits (76) and at-bats (188). His statistics ledger included 52 runs scored, 34 RBI, 12 doubles, one triple, and three home runs. The first team All-Mountain East Conference and Rawlings ABCA All-Atlantic Region selection completed his Shepherd career as the team's all-time leader in career at-bats (655), hits (250, tied with Nathan Minnich), runs scored (187, tied with Nathan Minnich), and stolen bases (62).

### Cheerleaders gain second consecutive national title

**T**he cheerleading squad earned a first place national title in the 2014 Collegiate Elite D2 All-Girl Division in Washington, D.C. The win gave Shepherd back-to-back national titles in the same division.

The Rams are coached by LINDSEY BORDOVSKY '10. Bordovsky, a former Ram cheerleader and two-time team captain, took over as head cheerleading coach in fall 2010. Bordovsky has expanded the program in terms of talent and numbers and built the squad into a nationally competitive team.

The team will compete again in February and March 2015 and welcomes the support of alumni, students, community members, and faculty and staff. *— Chip Ransom*



# Award winners announced by Athletics Department

**D**irector of athletics B.J. Pumroy recently announced award winners for the 2013-14 year.

Senior outfielder Michael Lott, of the Shepherd baseball team, was named Male Ath-

lete of the Year, while junior attacker Georgia Karr, of the women's lacrosse team, took Female Athlete of the Year honors.

Senior pitcher Paul Hvoz-dovic, of the baseball team, gained Male Senior Athlete of the Year honors, while senior midfielder Christina Ferrara, of the women's lacrosse team, gained Female Senior Athlete of the Year honors.

Senior Robert Hayes, of the football team, was named the male Mountain East Conference Senior Scholar-Athlete, while senior Melani Lewis, of the volleyball team, garnered female MEC Senior Scholar-Athlete accolades.

Longtime assistant athletics director and senior women's administrator JOAN POPE '74 was the recipient of the Ram Award, given to an individual who exemplifies the ideals of NCAA II (passion, balance, resourcefulness, service, learning, and sportsmanship).

Head baseball coach MATT MCCARTY '10, who led the Rams to a 39-14 mark and their first postseason victory since 2002, gained Coach of the Year honors.

The men's tennis team and the women's basketball team earned the awards as the male and female teams with the top grade point average.

The Rams Cup award, as selected by the Student Athlete Advisory Committee, was presented to the men's basketball team. **Chip Ransom**

Photos by Chip Ransom



Georgia Karr and Christina Ferrara



Robert Hayes and Melani Lewis



Baseball's Michael Lott, Coach Matt McCarty '10, and Paul Hvoz-dovic



Men's tennis team, highest grade point average award (male team)



B.J. Pumroy and Joan Pope '74,  
Ram Award winner



Men's basketball team, Rams Cup award winners

## Spring sports round-up

### Women's Lacrosse

The women's lacrosse team finished with a 10-6 overall mark. Shepherd has posted 10 victories or more over the past three seasons. The Rams had four games in which they scored 20 goals or more including a 27-goal effort in a win over Alderson-Broaddus.

Shepherd ranked third nationally in draw controls (16.19) and sixth in scoring offense (15.88).

The Rams had seven players earn Division II All-Independent Women's Lacrosse honors.

Junior defender Alyx Albano, of Wayne, New Jersey, a first team selection, was the top vote getter among the defenders. She was ranked second nationally in caused turnovers (2.56 per game) and 21st in ground balls (3.38 per game). Albano also garnered Capital One Academic All-District honors.

Junior attacker Georgia Karr, of Eldersburg, Maryland, a first team selection, led the Rams in goals (49), assists (37), and points (86). She also added 28 ground balls, 20 draw controls, and nine caused turnovers. Her 86 points set a Shepherd season record. Karr

ranked 14th nationally in assists per game (2.31), 16th in assists (37), 18th in points, and 25th in goals per game (3.06).

Sophomore attacker Hunter Morris, of Severna Park, Maryland, a first team choice, had 43 goals and nine assists for 52 points. She added 21 ground balls, 15 draw controls, and three caused turnovers.

Sophomore midfielder Erin Phelan, of Thurmont, Maryland, a first team selection, had 39 goals and 21 assists for 60 points. She added a team-best 56 draw controls, 23 ground balls, and three caused turnovers.

Sophomore defender Kelsey Phelan, of Thurmont, Maryland, a first team choice, was second on the team in ground balls (44) and caused turnovers (25).

Senior attacker Christina Ferrara, of California, Maryland, a second team selection, had 37 goals and 10 assists for 47 points. She added 22 ground balls, 18 draw controls, and five caused turnovers.

Freshman defender Courtney Schwiegerath, of Frederick, Maryland, garnered second team honors and was named to the All-Freshman Team. She had six goals and two assists for eight points. Schwiegerath added 41 draw controls, 24 ground balls, and seven caused turnovers.



William Ransom

*Christina Ferrara became the first Shepherd player to play in the IWLC Division II North-South All Star Game this year.*

Freshman defender Haley Price, of Eldersburg, Maryland, was named to the All-Freshman Team. She had six goals and two assists for eight points. Price added 26 draw controls, 26 ground balls, and seven caused turnovers.

### Baseball

The baseball team finished the season with a 39-14 overall mark. Shepherd captured the MEC regular season championship with a 35-7 conference record. The 39 wins tie the 1997 team for the most in program history. Shepherd advanced to NCAA II regional play and recorded its first postseason victory since 2002 with a 4-3 victory over Winston-Salem State.

Nine team members were named to the 2014 MEC All-Conference Team. Senior pitcher Paul Hvozdozic, of Herndon, Virginia, senior outfielder Michael Lott, of Woodbridge, Virginia, junior catcher Spencer Wolfe, of Huntingtown, Maryland, and freshman second baseman Jacob Carney, of Stephens City, Virginia, gained first team honors. Senior outfielder Kyle Porter, of Baltimore, Maryland, senior designated hitter Ryan Messina, of St. James, New York, and junior outfielder Matt Wilson, of Baltimore, Maryland, were second team selections, while sophomore pitchers Jamie Driver, of Warrenton, Virginia, and Ryan Pansch, of Charles Town, were honorable mention selections. Additionally, Hvozdozic was named MEC Pitcher of the Year, while head coach MATT McCARTY '10 garnered MEC Coach of the Year honors.

Hvozdozic, who was one of eight finalists for the Brett Tomko Award as the most outstanding Division II pitcher, led the Rams on the mound with an 11-1 mark and a save with a 1.80 ERA. He set a Shepherd season record with 100 strikeouts and walked only eight in 90 innings. Hvozdozic tossed a record nine complete games with four shutouts and two combined shutouts.

## 2014 Football Schedule

September 6	@ West Liberty *	1 p.m.
September 13	Fairmont State * <i>Ram Gridiron Club/Ram Nation Day</i>	Noon
September 20	@ Urbana *	Noon
September 27	WV Wesleyan * <i>Family Day</i>	Noon
October 4	@ Charleston *	1 p.m.
October 11	UVa-Wise * <i>Hall of Fame Weekend</i>	Noon
October 18	@ Notre Dame College *	1 p.m.
November 1	Glenville State * <i>Homecoming</i>	Noon
November 8	@ West Virginia State *	1 p.m.
November 15	Concord * <i>Military Appreciation/Senior Day</i>	Noon
* MEC games		



Hvozdovic is second among NCAA II schools with a 12.50 strikeouts-to-walk ratio. He ranked tied for third in victories (11), sixth in WHIP (0.88), eighth in walks allowed per nine innings (0.80), and tied for 10th in strikeouts (100). Additionally, Hvozdovic's 56 games started and 34 wins were the most among active NCAA II pitchers. His 340 innings pitched are second, his 307 career strikeouts rank him third, while his seven career shutouts place him sixth.

Hvozdovic holds the Shepherd career marks for most wins (34), innings pitched (340), most strikeouts (307), most games started (56), and most complete games (19).

McCarty, in just his second season at the helm for the Rams, led Shepherd to a 35-7 conference record and the inaugural Mountain East Conference regular season championship. He is the first Shepherd coach to garner conference baseball Coach of the Year honors since Wayne Riser in 2002. McCarty was also named National Collegiate Baseball Writers Association (NCBWA) Atlantic Region Coach of the Year.

Lott led the Rams with a .404 batting average with team bests of 76 hits in 188 at-bats. He scored 52 runs and drove in 34. Lott added 12 doubles, a triple, and three home runs. Lott was 27-of-35 in stolen base attempts this season. Lott completed his career as the program's all-time leader in at-bats (655), hits (250, tied with Nathan Minnich), runs scored (187, tied with Nathan Minnich), stolen bases (62), and hit-by pitch (46).

Wolfe had a .388 batting average with 66 hits in 170 at-bats. He led the Rams in doubles (19), home runs (7), runs scored (57), total bases (106), and slugging percentage (.624). His 53 RBIs were second on the team. Wolfe was 21-of-25 in stolen bases.

Carney had a .372 batting average with 54 hits in 144 at-bats. He drove in 38 runs and scored 31. He added seven doubles, two triples, and a home run. Carney drew 22 walks and was 21-of-23 in stolen bases.

Porter batted .299 with 47 hits in 157 at-bats. He scored 46 runs and drove in 28. He added 13 doubles, a triple, and three round-trippers. Porter drew a team-best 29 walks and led the Rams with 28 (of 32) stolen bases. His 28 stolen bases tie the season mark set by Michael Lott in 2013.

Messina batted .304 with 48 hits in 158 at-bats. He drove in a team-best 56 runs and scored 34. He added 18 doubles and six home runs. He drew 23 walks and was 9-of-12 in stolen bases.

Wilson batted .388 with 50 hits in 129 at-bats. He scored 44 runs and drove in 38. He added eight doubles, a triple, and three home runs. Wilson was 19-of-22 in stolen bases.

Driver posted an 8-2 mark on the mound with a 4.33 ERA.

## Fuoss, former football coach, dies

Former Shepherd football coach Donald Eugene Fuoss, of Sacramento, California, died June 25, 2014. He coached the Shepherd football team to its first undefeated, untied season in 1955. He was inducted into the Shepherd Athletics Hall of Fame. He was athletics director and professor of physical education at California State University, Sacramento until his retirement.

He fanned 48 in 72.2 innings. Driver has a complete game and a shutout to his credit this year.

Pansch recorded a 7-4 record with three saves with a 2.67 ERA. He had 73 strikeouts in 64.0 innings. Pansch had one complete game, a shutout, and two combined shutouts this year.

## Softball

The softball team finished with a 21-29 overall mark with a 10-18 record in conference play. The Rams won 20 games or more for the 11th consecutive season.

Senior shortstop Jess Mason, of Martinsburg, wrapped up a solid career for the Rams. Shepherd's lone senior, Mason recorded a .342 batting average with 55 hits in 161 at-bats. She was second on the team in hits and third in doubles (9), home runs (5), and walks (19). Her 13 sacrifices and six stolen bases led the team. Mason holds the Shepherd career mark for most games played (193) and shares the mark for most doubles in a game when she belted three against West Liberty this season.

## Men's Tennis

The men's tennis team posted a 13-12 overall mark with a 5-2 record in conference play. The Rams advanced to the conference tournament semifinals and four team members gained All-Conference honors. Shepherd narrowly missed out on a postseason bid.

Senior Chris Pratt, of Charleston, gained first team honors. He becomes just the fourth Shepherd student-athlete to earn first team All-Conference honors for all four seasons.

Senior Michael Lesko, of Mt. Airy, Maryland, junior Steve Kolumban, of Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, and freshman Grant Davis, of Harpers Ferry, were second team honorees.

☛ *Chip Ransom*

## Baseball trio earns All-American honors

Three baseball team members earned All-American honors. Senior pitcher Paul Hvozdovic was a second team Daktronics and a third team NCBWA selection, junior catcher Spencer Wolfe was a third team choice on both teams, and senior outfielder Michael Lott earned honorable mention honors on both squads.

Hvozdovic led the Rams on the mound with an 11-1 mark and a save with a 1.80 ERA. He set a Shepherd season record with 100 strikeouts and walked only eight in 90 innings. Hvozdovic tossed a record nine complete games with four shutouts and two combined shutouts. Hvozdovic was also a second team ABCA/Rawlings All-American and was named to the College Baseball Lineup Division II All-Star Team.

Wolfe had a .388 batting average with 66 hits in 170 at-bats. He led the Rams in doubles (19), home runs (7), runs scored (57), total bases (106), and slugging percentage (.624). His 53 RBIs were second on the team. Wolfe was 21-of-25 in stolen bases.

Lott led the Rams with a .404 batting average with team bests of 76 hits in 188 at-bats. He scored 52 runs and drove in 34. Lott added 12 doubles, a triple, and three home runs. Lott was 27-of-35 in stolen base attempts this season. Lott completed his career as the program's all-time leader in at-bats (655), hits (250, tied with Nathan Minnich), runs scored (187, tied with Nathan Minnich), stolen bases (62), and hit-by pitch (46). ☛

## Your gift makes a difference

There is no denying that student scholarships help to ease the financial burden of attending college. But for many students, these scholarships also provide a source of emotional enrichment, motivation, and, ironically, a sense of personal contribution.

"I'm lucky enough to come from a financially stable family," said Foundation scholar Alexandra Weakland. A secondary education major with a concentration in social studies and minor in coaching, Alex has been the recipient of the CARL K. RAUCH ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP FOR EDUCATION, MOLER GENERAL SCHOLARSHIP, and RALPH AND MARGARET BURKHART LEGACY SCHOLARSHIP throughout her four years at Shepherd.

"I'm fortunate that my parents are able to pay for everything that isn't cov-

ered by my scholarships," she said. "But at the same time, getting these scholarships has been my way of contributing to my college education."

The second oldest of five children, Alex admits that coming from a large family sometimes made her worry about the financial strain college would take on her parents, who in addition to being philanthropically involved in their church and community, also encouraged their children to seek out and pursue their talents and interests in a variety of activities. While Alex and her brothers showed a natural proclivity toward athletics, they also were required to participate in programs involving the creative and performing arts.

"My mom wanted us to be well-rounded because she knew that sports

would end someday. My parents were very realistic," Alex said. "My mom flat-out told us, 'No offense, but none of you are going pro.' We were all aware of that at a very young age."

As a result, Alex dabbled in choir and pottery and played numerous sports throughout her childhood, including soccer, softball, and gymnastics. But in the end, her passion was basketball.

A starting guard on the Shepherd University women's basketball team, Alex honed her skills on the court throughout middle and high school in the Amateur Athletics Union (AAU) in her hometown of Camp Hill, Pennsylvania. It was through AAU that she was recruited to play for Shepherd by former head women's basketball coach Melanie Ford, now the assistant athletic director for compliance and eligibility.

While Alex had not heard of Shepherd prior to visiting it, she was immediately drawn to the school due to its size and small town community feel.

"That's what sold me on Shepherd—the small class sizes," she said. "My advisor knows me by name, most of my teachers know me by name, and it's located in such a quaint little town. It felt like home. The town is here for the kids and the kids are here for the town. Coming from a big, close-knit family, that was important. Shepherdstown just fit me like a glove."

Described by her instructors as a natural born leader, Alex maintains a rigorous schedule that includes her coursework, athletics, and numerous extracurricular activities. She served as a peer educator in Shepherd's First-Year Experience program, was inducted into the honorary education fraternity Kappa Delta Pi, and was recently selected as a McMurran Scholar, Shepherd's highest academic honor. Said former basketball head coach Ford, "Alex's ability to juggle responsibility between her athletic and academic passion has been and will continue to be a tremendous example for all student-athletes."

*In one of her many extracurricular roles on Shepherd's campus, Alex Weakland (near right) handed out itineraries and information sheets and helped direct students on Advisement and Registration Day.*



Carolyn Wilkie



Inspired to pursue a career in education by her sixth grade geography teacher and eighth grade American history teacher, Alex would ideally like to teach middle school and eagerly accepts the challenges it offers.

“People tell me, ‘Oh, that’s such a tough age,’ but that’s why I want to teach it,” she said. “I want to be there for my kids. I want to be their rock. I want to be able to say, ‘Hey, it’s okay. You’re going to go through some tough times, but it’s going to make you stronger.’”

Alex begins her final year at Shepherd with a practicum at Shepherdstown Middle School followed by her student teaching in spring 2015. After graduation, she plans to enter the classroom immediately but hopes to return to school at some point for her master’s degree. Currently coaching her own basketball team in the AAU where she got her start, the effervescent senior would also like to utilize her coaching minor by serving as the head coach for a junior varsity basketball team in an effort to help prepare students for varsity level play.

“I like to focus on the fundamentals and refining kids’ skills,” she said of her fondness for the middle school age group. “I think you can teach tenacity,” she added, but concedes that love of the game is inherent.

With her self-described “change-the-world” attitude, Alex certainly displays both tenacity and passion in everything she does, both on and off the court. Her impressive work ethic is reflected in her



Maja Young

*Alex Weakland has been a valuable member of the Shepherd women’s basketball team since her freshman year and received Shepherd’s highest academic recognition as a McMurrin Scholar.*

overall positive attitude and enthusiasm for life.

“I try to lead by example because I think it’s most effective,” she said. “Everything I can do on the court and in the classroom, I’ve had to work hard for.”

It is with such acumen that she gratefully recognizes the impact her scholarships have made in her life and that of her family, even as she acknowledges her privileged upbringing.

“These scholarships have given me so much,” she said, adding that she plans to give back to Shepherd for all that it’s given her when she’s financially able. But for now, she’s happy to do her part to make a difference by serving as a leader on campus.

“That’s the only way I know how to give back right now,” she said. “That’s what I have to offer—my time and my energy.” ❖ *Kristin Alexander*

## Take a virtual walk down memory lane with digitized Shepherd memorabilia

Scarborough Library has embarked on an initiative to digitize past issues of Shepherd’s yearbook, *The Cohongoroota*; the student newspaper, *The Picket*; and course catalogs from 1873 to 2011. Funded by the Scarborough Society, the project will allow alumni, faculty emeriti, staff, and others to access these valuable resources. And that’s only the beginning.

“The special collections contain many other historical resources that may be digitized in the future for easy online access,” says Ann Watson, dean of libraries. “Christine Toms, who oversees our special collections, has done a fantastic job of spearheading this project. She and I

will continue to work together to identify future resources to be digitized.” Watson added that the initiative is a major step into the 21st century for Scarborough Library.

The digitization project was a collaborative effort between the library and Lyrasis Digitization Collaborative, a nonprofit membership association that

works closely with library and cultural heritage organizations to create, access, and manage information, with an emphasis on digital content. Individuals may access the newly digitized collections via the Scarborough Library’s Special Collections website at [www.shepherd.edu/libweb/about/spcoll/index.html](http://www.shepherd.edu/libweb/about/spcoll/index.html). ❖

### Visit the Foundation’s new website

The Shepherd University Foundation has a brand new home on the World Wide Web. Easier navigation. More stories and photos. And it’s mobile-friendly. Check us out today at [www.shepherduniversityfoundation.org](http://www.shepherduniversityfoundation.org).

## Valley Proteins, Inc. sponsors West Virginia Academy of Sciences

The 89th Annual Meeting of the West Virginia Academy of Sciences received additional private support from Valley Proteins, Inc. and the NASA West Virginia Space Grant Consortium. Held on April 12 at Shepherd, the daylong event provided opportunities for more than 160 undergraduate and graduate students, faculty, and science professionals to present their research in numerous areas of the sciences. The Academy was founded to advance scientific knowledge and to promote science in West Virginia. This year's conference was designed to highlight and celebrate scientific achievements across a spectrum of disciplines, from astronomy to zoology.

Valley Proteins, Inc. is dedicated to creating renewable resources, contributing to a cleaner environment, and developing clean energy biofuel. A truly green company, it was founded by the grandfather of Shepherd University Foundation president **MIKE SMITH '89** more than 60 years ago and has a long-standing history of supporting Shepherd University, including acting as a presenting sponsor at the annual Scarborough Society Gala.



Photo courtesy Jason Best

*A group of Shepherd students from among the 50 who served as volunteer staff for the West Virginia Academy of Science meeting takes a moment to pose for a group photo. "We are extremely grateful for the generosity from both private and public sources," said Dr. Jason Best, WVAS president and professor of astronomy and astrophysics at Shepherd. "Such a clear indication of the support of science demonstrates the continued value and impact of the sciences in West Virginia."*

## Scarborough Society Art and Lecture Series announces 2014-15 season

The Scarborough Society Art and Lecture Series will offer another season of lectures and exhibits. All events are free and open to the public and will take place in the Scarborough Library Reading Room with a reception to follow.

- The Department of Contemporary Art and Theater will present its annual **Faculty Art Show** from September 6-18, with an opening night reception on Monday, September 8 from 4-6 p.m.

- **Dr. Kathleen Corpus**, co-chair of the Department of Business Administration and Family and Consumer Sciences, will present a history of FACS at Shepherd University and as a field of study in general, as well as its future as an academic discipline. The program, part of the centennial anniversary of Shepherd's FACS curriculum, will take place on Thursday, November 13 at 7 p.m. in the Scarborough Library Reading Room. Additionally, a variety of clothing and textiles associated with family and consumer sciences will be on display in the Reading Room November 1-23.

- Shepherd faculty member **Dr. Dot Hively** will discuss her popular book depicting the history of Shepherd University on Thursday, April 9, 2015, at 7 p.m. in the Scarborough Library Reading Room.

Other events may be added to the series throughout the year. For a full calendar of events, please visit the Foundation web site at [www.shepherduniversityfoundation.org](http://www.shepherduniversityfoundation.org).

## Foundation participating in area Combined Federal Campaigns



The Shepherd University Foundation is proud to be participating in the Eastern Panhandle, Chesapeake Bay Area, and National Capital Area Combined Federal Campaigns (CFC). If you are a federal government or military employee in these regions and would like to give to the Shepherd University Foundation through the CFC, please enter **CFC code #23035** on your pledge card during the next fund drive.



## Homer Hickam

(continued from page 6)

Olympic Torch for a portion of its journey to Atlanta in 1996. In 1999 West Virginia proclaimed an annual Rocket Boys Day in the state to honor Hickam and to encourage student interest in science.

In recent years, Hickam has written a variety of fiction and nonfiction books, including *We Are Not Afraid*, a response to 9/11 through the lens of the Coalwood community, and his Josh Thurlow series—*The Keeper's Son* (2003), *The Ambassador's Son* (2005), and *The Far Reaches* (2007). His 2008 novel *Red Helmet* is about love and heroism in the Appalachian coalfields. Hickam's books have been translated into many different languages, and his most recent novel, published in 2013, is *Crescent*, a young adult science fiction book that is part of his Helium-3 series.

The books for which Hickam is most admired are his Coalwood novels. These not only portray a period in West Virginia's history that is slowly vanishing, but they explore a variety of themes such as domestic violence, the longing for elsewhere, the longing to belong, the nature of prejudice and the racial and class divides, the tyranny of gossip and convention (*The Coalwood Way* and *Rocket Boys*), and the dark and dangerous world inside a coal mine, with its "sky of stone" (*Sky of Stone*).

◆ Sylvia Bailey Shurbutt



Gary Kable

## McMurrin Society dinner held in April

The annual Joseph P. McMurrin Society dinner, hosted by President Suzanne Shipley and sponsored by the Shepherd University Foundation, was held Saturday, April 26 in the atrium of Erma Ora Byrd Hall. Featuring a four-course dinner prepared by Chef Scott Anderson and the Shepherd University Catering team, the event brought together society members and their guests, along with Shepherd University faculty and administrators, to honor those who have chosen to share their lifelong financial achievements with the university through estate and other planned gifts. Pictured (above, l. to r.) are Dan Starliper '69, Sue Mentzer-Blair '72, Wendy Smith, wife of Foundation president Mike Smith '89, Sara Lueck '67, and Dr. Chris Ames, vice president for academic affairs, at the event's cocktail and dinner reception.



Kristin Alexander

## Alumni are published in 'Anthology'

Alumni authors (l. to r.) Paul Kessler '11, Jessica Salfia M.A. '12, and Zach Davis '09 pose with President Suzanne Shipley and copies of the "Anthology of Appalachian Writers: Frank X Walker, Volume VI," to which they each contributed their work. Paul graduated from Shepherd with a B.A. in English with a concentration in creative writing, Zach with a B.A. in English literature, and Jessica with an M.A. in curriculum and instruction. These alumni are also winners of the West Virginia Fiction Competition, selected by Frank X Walker.

Local author and alumnus Roger Engle '70 shared photos of his native Hedgesville between the years of 1948 and 1984 during a discussion of his award-winning book "Stories from a Small Town" as part of last year's Scarborough Art and Lecture Series. The 2014-15 series schedule is on page 24.

Stephanie Engle

## Women for Shepherd create annual women's giving circle

**A**t the Women for Shepherd's fall 2013 event, Rebecca Powers, founder of Impact Austin, spoke of her journey to inspired philanthropy. Powers's story was an effective one.

A group of five women in attendance—Liz Oates, **MARY STALEY '70**, **BEVERLY HUGHES '71**, **BONNIE BRANNON '63**, and **CAROLYN FLEENOR '78**—decided to pursue the initiative of Women Investing in Shepherd (WISH), an annual membership women's giving circle created by Women for Shepherd University and sponsored by the Shepherd University Foundation. WISH is designed to

educate, engage, and empower women to achieve their philanthropic goals through high impact grant giving to Shepherd University and the tri-state community.

Through personal, woman-to-woman grassroots commu-

nication, WISH strives to become a thoughtful learning organization focused on educating members about issues and trends in identified focus areas, as well as helping them become better and more informed philanthropists. This organic growth is mainly achieved through coffees—social events at which founding members can share their stories and passion for the organization with friends and colleagues.

"I am hopeful that women will recognize our excitement and enthusiasm for WISH and join us," said Bev Hughes.

Women who join WISH make an annual charitable contribution of \$500. All gifts received during the calendar year are placed into a grant fund, which is then divided into two equal pools. One pool will provide an award for Shepherd University campus-centered academic, athletic, cultural, or community service learning programs. The other pool for nonprofits in the tri-state region will provide an award in support of programs in the areas of education, arts and culture, community and family, health and wellness, and the environment.

Each year, a one woman, one vote process will determine who will receive the grant awards. This level playing field allows any woman, whether young, old, experienced in philanthropy, or a first-time giver, to have an equal say in the grantees. The first awards are scheduled to be made in fall 2015, with the recipients being selected by any woman who makes her founding member contribution by December 31, 2014. Liz Oates, one of the advisory board members, is optimistic of the exponential potential this initiative has. "WISH's unique platform allows us to build a strong women's giving circle. Together, we can make a significant difference," she said.

If you would like to learn more about joining WISH by receiving a brochure or speaking with a member, please contact the Shepherd University Foundation office at 304-876-5021 or email Meg Peterson at [mpeterso@shepherd.edu](mailto:mpeterso@shepherd.edu). You may also visit the Shepherd University Foundation website at [www.shepherduniversityfoundation.org](http://www.shepherduniversityfoundation.org).

## Women for Shepherd University 2014-15 Event Schedule

### Sunday, November 16 \* 2-4 p.m.

**Haute Hostess: Holiday Social Event Planning Extravaganza**, War Memorial Building, Shepherdstown. This event will feature displays and demonstrations on table settings and flower arrangements, invitations, menu planning, and food presentation...perfect right before the holiday season begins. Presenters will include **KEVIN WILSON '84** of the Magnolia Tree, Dolores Lowe of Dolores Lowe Interiors, and Joanne Cooke of Gourmet Cooke Catering. There will be a \$15 cost to attend. Reservations are required by Friday, November 7.

### Sunday, April 19, 2015 \* 2-4 p.m.

**Leaving a Legacy**, Robert C. Byrd Center for Legislative Studies. Dorrene Hale, regent of the Pack Horse Ford Chapter of the National Society of the Daughters of the Revolution, will present how to get started with genealogy and how to utilize available resources. A special pictorial presentation by John Allen on historical architecture of Jefferson County will follow. John Allen is the author of *Uncommon Vernacular*. Reservations are required by Monday, April 13, 2015.

## Scarborough Gala thanks its sponsors

**T**he 13th annual Scarborough Society Gala took place on Friday, August 8 with a theme that embraced the tropical paradise depicted in James Michener's novel *Tales of the South Pacific*. The event was once again held at the Bavarian Inn in Shepherdstown.

Presenting sponsors for the event were BB&T Wealth Management, Jefferson Security Bank, Valley Proteins, Inc., and United Bank. Millers Electric Company, Inc./Professional Plumbing and Heating LLC sponsored the band, Souled Out. Program sponsors included **JOHN WOLFF '88**, Capital Fiduciary Advisors and **JERRY WILLIAMS '71**, State Farm Insurance. Other theme sponsors included



Bowles Rice Attorneys at Law; Skinner Law Firm; Smith Elliott Kearns & Co.; PriceRomine, PLLC; and Thompson Gas.

The annual Scarborough Society Gala is a popular event enjoyed by alumni and community members alike, and the Foundation gratefully acknowledges these sponsors, without whom it would not be possible.





# THEN AND NOW

Cheerleading has been a staple at Shepherd as early as the 1920s. Since its earliest inception as “football yells,” it has gone through many changes—from outfits to athletic maneuvers. One thing has remained constant—an enthusiastic support for the Rams!

1972 Centennial Squad

The Shepherd University Foundation allows alumni and friends to show their own support for the Rams through annual contributions to athletic programs, donations to existing named athletic funds, or the creation of a new athletic endowment. For more information, contact the Shepherd University Foundation office at P.O. Box 5000, Shepherdstown, WV 25443-5000, 304-876-5397, [mlingenf@shepherd.edu](mailto:mlingenf@shepherd.edu) or visit us at [www.shepherduniversityfoundation.org](http://www.shepherduniversityfoundation.org).

## Leave a legacy

A double major in secondary education (1939) and elementary education (1940), Elizabeth Rehlmeier Tabler graduated from Shepherd and began teaching at Fort Ashby High School, not far from her hometown of Keyser. Her teaching career was cut short, however, when World War II broke out and her husband, Joseph Wesley Tabler, whom she had met at Shepherd, enlisted in the U.S. Navy.

With her husband serving overseas, Elizabeth returned to Keyser, where she cared for the couple's firstborn son and delivered mail for the U.S. Postal Service. When the war ended, Joseph returned home and the couple moved to Washington, D.C., where Elizabeth served as the office manager for a construction company and later at an architectural firm. Though she never returned to the classroom, her respect and admiration for public educators remained steadfast throughout her life.

"She believed teachers had special gifts and talents that were vital to children," says her youngest son, David Tabler, of Colonial Beach, Virginia. "She always regretted that her teaching career was cut short due to the war."

The only child of a single working mother, Elizabeth lost her father to the great flu epidemic of 1918. Her mother owned and rented out five properties in the Keyser area, eventually saving enough money to send Elizabeth to college,

despite the economic hardships of the Great Depression. Elizabeth later followed in her mother's industrious footsteps, owning and managing seven rental properties of her own in and around Washington, D.C.

"My grandmother was a very determined woman and my mother inherited that spirit," said David, adding that his parents fell into real estate when they were offered the opportunity to live rent-free in a D.C. apartment complex in exchange for managing it.

Sadly, Elizabeth passed away in 1993 from brain cancer. In the months preceding her death, she and David often discussed her estate plans, which included Shepherd University.

"In discussions with her, she would often say that she wanted to help some young girl go to college who would truly be in need of a scholarship as a means of affording her education. My mother was always appreciative of the fact that her mother somehow found the money to give her an education, even during the Great Depression," wrote David in a letter to the Shepherd University Foundation in 1994 as he contemplated his mother's legacy. Soon afterward, the ELIZABETH R. TABLER SCHOLARSHIP was established in support of female education majors with a financial need.

"[My mother] was so thankful for the education she received at Shepherd because it provided a meaningful way for her to earn a living," said David. "It's important to me that her legacy continues—that she may provide a sustaining gift for our youth who wish to become teachers."

Since 1994 the Elizabeth R. Tabler Scholarship has helped many young women attend college and pursue careers in public education. During the 2013-14 academic year, it was awarded to two recipients, both of whom expressed their heartfelt gratitude for having earned it.

"Being an out-of-state student made my college expenses even greater," said KAREN BERGERON '14, of Springfield, Virginia. "The Elizabeth Tabler Scholar-

*"In discussions with her, she would often say that she wanted to help some young girl go to college who would truly be in need of a scholarship as a means of affording her education. My mother was always appreciative of the fact that her mother somehow found the money to give her an education, even during the Great Depression."*

David Tabler



*Elizabeth Tabler (second from right) shared a special bond with her students at Fort Ashby High School, where she taught for two years before the outbreak of World War II. Though she never returned to the classroom, her respect and admiration for teachers remained steadfast throughout her life. She believed that teachers were a gift.*

Photos on both pages courtesy David Tabler



## Elizabeth Tabler '39 and '40

ship was there when I desperately needed some extra financial support. I can never fully express my gratitude for Mrs. Tabler and her generosity, for it helped me a great deal.”

An elementary education major, Karen says she “cannot wait” to secure a teaching position and get started in the classroom. Likewise, the scholarship’s other 2013-14 recipient, Cassandra Suder, of Hagerstown, Maryland, looks forward to teaching special education and history at the high school level when she graduates from Shepherd in 2016. A social studies and secondary education major, Cassandra said the fact that the Elizabeth R. Tabler Scholarship was designated specifically for education majors meant a great deal to her.

David believes his mother would be pleased with the way her scholarship has been managed over the years.

“I think she would be happy with the way it has continued to help students in need more than 20 years after her death,” he said. “And I think she would be pleased that Shepherd University has served as a good steward of her funds and honored the process by which students are selected to receive the scholarship.”

If you would like to endow a fund that will leave a lasting legacy at Shepherd University, please contact the Shepherd University Foundation at P.O. Box 5000, Shepherdstown, WV 25443, 304-876-5397, or email Monica Lingenfelter at [mlingenf@shepherd.edu](mailto:mlingenf@shepherd.edu). You may also visit our website at [www.shepherduniversity-foundation.org](http://www.shepherduniversity-foundation.org). ♡ Kristin Alexander

Elizabeth Rehlmeier Tabler made the most of her time as a student at Shepherd, participating in numerous organizations and activities on campus. In addition to singing in the college choir and playing the



*Pictured above (l. to r.) are Elizabeth Rehlmeier Tabler '39 and '40, Kitty Hodges, and Virginia Schleuss '39, top row, Calvin Dirting, Reverend Harold Snider '39, and Carroll Blizzard '40.*



*Elizabeth Rehlmeier Tabler '39 and '40*

piano, she was a charter member of Kappa Delta Pi and a member of both Alpha Psi Omega and Sigma Epsilon Chi. In 1938 Elizabeth was selected as an outstanding student in the Who's Who of American College and University Students. In the photo above, Elizabeth—then known as Betty Jane Rehlmeier—is pictured with fellow Who's Who students and several faculty members on the Shepherd campus.

“Her photos and memorabilia of her college days paint a picture of how full and rewarding an experience she had at Shepherd,” said her son, David. “She was very involved in school activities and made lots of friends while excelling academically. It’s no wonder she wanted to give something back to future students.”

## Every gift tells a story

An antique dinner service that once belonged to Popodicon's original owner, Henry W. Potts, has found its way back to the historic estate thanks to the generosity and creative philanthropic spirit of two longtime Shepherdstown residents. As retired purveyors of antiques with a focus on ceramics and porcelain, John Shank and Joseph Matthews were collectors of the buff and white Old Paris china pattern that bears its own historical significance—the same pattern was purchased by President Abraham Lincoln in 1865, according to a 1957 National Archives study.

"The nucleus of our collection was a family heirloom," said Shank. "It began as a tea and dessert service. From there, we collected more pieces and created a service for 50 people."

Shank and Matthews purchased the dinner service from the Potts

family upon the death in 1977 of Margaret Ann Potts Williams, the daughter of Henry Potts. Adding it to their growing personal collection, they used the entire set as a working service at the dinner parties they frequently hosted.

It was during one such dinner party at the couple's home that Shepherd President Suzanne Shipley took note of the unique serving set originally purchased by Henry Potts when he built Popodicon in 1907. Upon relaying its history, Shank and Matthews offered to gift the set back to the southern-style manse, which has served as the residence for Shepherd's presidents since the university purchased it in 1964.

"We admire President Shipley's commitment to Shepherd and the surrounding town and appreciate her involvement in the community,"

said Shank of the inspiration behind the gift, adding that they appreciate the president's attention to detail in her aesthetic efforts around campus and at Popodicon itself.

Gifts in-kind, as non-cash charitable donations of property are known, may be made to Shepherd and often reflect donors' personal interests, as well as their respect and admiration for Shepherd. The handcrafted cherry Shaker Harvard desk that sits in the Office of the President, for instance, was donated by Gat Caperton, former chair of the Shepherd University Board of Governors and an Eastern Panhandle resident. As owner of Gat Creek Furniture, Caperton's 2008 gift conveyed his commitment to the design and production of quality furniture hand-made from solid Appalachian cherry as he welcomed the newly-appointed Shipley to her tenure as president of Shepherd.

Other gifts in-kind are made in the spirit of giving back. Dr. Sitaram Nayak has contributed several gifts of personal property to Shepherd in appreciation of the continuing education classes he has taken through the university. In 2013 Nayak generously bestowed the Department of Natural Sciences and Mathematics with an antique brass refracting telescope, c. 1872-1882, that he acquired at auction in the 1980s.

"This telescope is historical," said Nayak of his gift, which will be displayed by Shepherd astronomy and astrophysics professor Dr. Jason Best in his teaching laboratory



Rob Shaw



Rob Shaw



Carolyn Wilkie



Suzanne Shipley

*Gifts to Shepherd University have included (clockwise, from top right) a grandfather clock, c. 1780, on display in the Shepherd Room of McMurran Hall; a set of china originally owned by the family that built Popodicon; the university ceremonial mace (carried here at commencement by Faculty Senate President J.B. Tuttle); and an antique brass telescope.*



so that he may instruct his students about the history of its technology. "People can learn a lot from this technology," said Nayak.

While many in-kind gifts, such as technology, musical instruments, books, and equipment, are made to meet the practical and educational needs of any higher education institution, some are much more personal and may even include family heirlooms. One such gift is the Ashton of Bredbury grandfather clock, c. 1780, that currently resides in the ornate Shepherd Room of historic McMurrin Hall. As benefactors to Shepherd University, siblings Mary Elizabeth "Liz" Oates, Max Oates, Jr., and T.K. Oates II wanted to continue their support with a unique gift in memory of their parents, Dr. Max O. and Evelyn S. Oates. In 2010 the Oates family donated the clock, which had been a longtime fixture in their childhood home.

"We feel fortunate that Shepherd University is part of our region and we are always interested in ways we can show our support," said Liz Oates upon giving the gift. "The donation of this clock also provides a lasting legacy to our parents."

Another deeply personal gift donated in-kind to Shepherd includes the university mace commissioned by Dr. Mark Stern in 2009 after the school's original mace went missing. A symbol of Shepherd's authority, history, and culture, the mace is crafted of native West Virginia cherry wood and topped with the same sandstone marble from which

the Rumsey Monument was made. A copper end-piece acknowledges the copper roofs found on campus and throughout Shepherdstown. The mace includes the university seal on its shaft with an embedded stone fragment from McMurrin Hall, the original building within which Shepherd College, Normal and Collegiate, was housed.

While campus lore suggests various, often humorous, causes behind the disappearance of the original university mace, Stern's beautifully hand-crafted gift ensures that its replacement will long represent Shepherd's commitment to learning, teaching, and serving its students, faculty, and surrounding community. And it may be said that the same notion holds true for any charitable donation accepted in the spirit of in-kind giving. ♡ *Kristin Alexander*

*Gifts in-kind are approved by the Shepherd University administration and may be made through the Shepherd University Foundation. For more information about making an in-kind gift, please contact the Foundation office at 304-876-5397 or [kalex05@shepherd.edu](mailto:kalex05@shepherd.edu), or visit the website at [www.shepherduniversityfoundation.org](http://www.shepherduniversityfoundation.org).*



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