There will be a discussion on the legacy of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. on Tuesday at Shepherd University.

Shepherd to host MLK discussion

SHEPHERDSTOWN — How has the legacy of Martin Luther King Jr. impacted you personally? A discussion panel will address the topic at Shepherd University’s Robert C. Byrd Center for Legislative Studies on Tuesday.

The Tuesday event, hosted by Shepherd’s Office of Multicultural Affairs, begins at 6:30 p.m.

Members of this year’s panel include Tom Segar, assistant vice president for student affairs and director of residence life at Shepherd; Solomon Wright, of Martinsburg, a local activist for social change; Dorothy Davis, of Bunker Hill, who attended the 1963 March on Washington, D.C.; and Tiffany Claiborne, a May 2009 graduate of Shepherd, from Frederick, Md., and former member of the Multicultural Leadership Team at Shepherd.

The discussion will focus on the legacy of Martin Luther King Jr. and how he has impacted the lives of the panel members individually.
Following the discussion, a reception in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. will be held in the lobby of the Byrd Center.

“It will be a reflection on what Dr. King’s legacy has meant for all of us and focus on what is next in terms of his legacy,” said Segar, of Hagerstown, who currently serves on the enrollment management and commencement committees and is co-chairman of the diversity and equity committee at Shepherd.

From a historical perspective, Segar said that the discussion will allow those in attendance to recognize what King meant for the participants, socially and historically.

“He’s a symbol more than a real life person for those of us who weren’t alive when he was,” Segar said.

Segar said that the discussion on Tuesday will pose the question: how do we continue with what King started in social justice, collectively and individually?

“Are we finished? Probably not,” Segar said.

— From staff reports
Shepherd students spend day following King's lead

By MATTHEW UMSTEAD
matthewu@herald-mail.com

MARTINSBURG, W.Va. — Kareem Khodary admits he sleeps a lot. But there would be no sleeping in late Monday morning for the Shepherd University political science major and about two dozen other students.

Beginning at 8 a.m., Khodary and fellow members of the University's Multicultural Leadership Team disinfected classrooms at two local schools and made sleeping bags for the homeless and served dinner to less fortunate in a day-long community service initiative to honor Martin Luther King Jr.

Instead of relaxing at home or sleeping, "today, I'm actually doing something, helping out the community," Khodary said.

"It means a lot to me to step out there and start volunteering," said Khodary, who hails from Cairo, Egypt.

The group worked at Ranson Elementary and North Jefferson Elementary schools before serving about 100 people at Trinity 6:34, a weekly ecumenical worship service and community meal gathering at Trinity United Methodist Church in Martinsburg. The efforts were part of "A Day On Not a Day Off: Day of Service," according to Christana J. Johnson, director of multicultural student affairs and disability support services at Shepherd.

"I wanted them to gain some greater awareness about some of the problems of the community ... and how they can impact that," Johnson said while students served plates of ham, scalloped potatoes, steamed vegetables and bowls of pudding topped with whipped cream.

The Multicultural Leadership Team is tied to a scholarship program that requires students to complete 45 hours of service per semester and their involvement in multicultural and social justice programs, both on and off campus.

Computer engineering major Julio Ferreris of Kearneysville, W.Va., said he never volunteered before, not even in high school.

"Today, this is actually really nice," Ferreris said while standing in line to receive plates of food to serve at Trinity 6:34.

Freshman environmental science major Bianca Santos of Alexandria, Va., said it was a good experience...
to do community service on a national holiday.

“We wanted to take initiative to take this day to make a difference some where,” Santos said.

Volunteering at a soup kitchen was something that Santos said she always wanted to do and believes the
group made a difference by making sleeping bags at the church with donated neck ties, sheets and
blankets.

“I think it’s a positive experience for everyone today,” Santos said.

The team’s outreach effort happened to coincide with the monthly visit to Trinity 6:34 by a group of
volunteer nursing students from Shepherd University and West Virginia University physician C.H. Mitch
Jacques. The Good Samaritan Free Clinic provides a bus outfitted with exam rooms that allow the staging
of a free medical clinic.

“We take care of everything from colds, sore throat, ear infections, wound care, diabetes, the whole
thing,” said Shepherd University associate professor Kathy Dilley.

“The need has grown since I started three years ago,” Dilley said. “When I first started doing it, I was
seeing more men and now I’m seeing children and families.

The experience is good for the students because they realize what their community really looks like, Dilley
said.

“I always tease them ‘this sort of knocks off your rose-colored glasses,’” Dilley said.

“There’s an awful lot of folks that have no insurance or are under-insured and really have no way of
getting any health care — so we’re here ... doing the best we can.”

Dilley estimated that Jacques sees about 20 people each month and her team of five or six nursing
students check blood pressure and perform blood sugar screenings for another 20 people. Dilley said
donations of bandages and Wal-Mart gift cards for prescriptions are always welcome by donating to
Trinity 6:34.

“We usually run out (of the cards) by the end of the evening,” Dilley said.

Mary Gunderson, director of social ministries at the church, said Trinity 6:34 is made possible by an
“incredible crew of volunteers” and support of a number of different churches.

More information about Trinity United Methodist Church’s social ministries and Shepherd University’s
Multicultural Leadership Team is on the Internet at http://wv-trinity.com/ and at
www.shepherd.edu/mcssweb.
Scarborough Society hosts reception

SHEPHERDSTOWN
The Scarborough Society of Shepherd University will host a reception on Monday, February 8 from 5 to 7 p.m. in recognition of the Shepherd faculty art on display in the reading room of the Scarborough Library February 1-26. The reception and exhibit are free and open to the public.

The exhibit is part of the Scarborough Society Art and Lecture Series at Shepherd.

"The exhibit offers a wide diversity of work within the realm of contemporary art," said Michael Mendez, adjunct professor in the Shepherd University Department of Contemporary Art and Theater and coordinator for the exhibit.

For more information, call the Shepherd University Foundation at 304-876-5397.
Europe session planned

SHEPHERDSTOWN — Shepherd University will be offering the Evolution of European Government and Society, two six-credit study abroad courses to Greece, Italy, Belgium, the Netherlands, and Ireland for 24 days beginning the week of May 24. Students will earn three credits in political science and three in history.

Dr. Sally Brasher, assistant professor in Shepherd's Department of History, and Dr. Niel Brasher, chair of the Department of Political Science at Shippensburg University, will conduct the program. The Brashers have led more than ten different university groups to Europe.

The program will begin in Amsterdam and Belgium, where students will stay with host families and hear lectures on modern European politics at NATO, SHAPE, and the European Union, as well as visiting historic sites like the Grand Place, medieval Bruges, and a World War II concentration camp. The following week is Italy with visits to Lucca, Rome, Florence, and Siena. Students will trace the evolution of government from the Forum and Vatican Palace in Rome to the seat of the wealthy Florentine merchants during the Renaissance while visiting the Coliseum, Forum, Bourghese Palace, Uffizi Gallery, Medici Palace, Il Campo, Vatican Museum, St. Peter's Basilica, and Pantheon.

During week three students will visit Greece and Dublin. Students will view the birthplace of modern political theory and visit the ancient seat of Athenian government, Parthenon, Acropolis, Delos, and the islands of Santorini and Mykonos, final nights spent in Dublin.

The program cost is $3,470 per student and includes airfare, lodging, field trips, entrance fees, activities, some meals, and transportation in Europe. Tuition is in addition to the program cost. For more information and an application, contact Dr. Sally Brasher at sbrasher@shepherd.edu.
Governor's State of the State encouraging

The Doyle Report

By Delegate John Doyle

Gov. Joe Manchin delivered his sixth "State-of-the-State" address on Jan. 13 as the Legislature began its 2010 regular session.

I was quite happy overall with what he had to say. In fact, I agree with him on more of the points he made in this speech than I did in any of his previous five.

He came out foursquare for a full 180 days of instruction for public school students on grades K-12. We've needed this for a long time. West Virginia's school year is normally one of the shortest in the nation.

Presently, state law calls for 180 days of instruction. But the required number of administrative days uses up much of the flexibility local school boards have before bad weather days are taken into consideration. During a year with more than an average amount of snow even counties like Jefferson and Berkeley (tied with Kanawha, Putnam and Cabell for having the warmest average annual temperatures among the state's 55 counties) have difficulty squeezing in 180 days. Counties like Randolph, Pocahontas, Pendleton, Tucker, Preston and Webster (which rival Buffalo, New York, in natural snowfall) have difficulty getting 180 days of instruction in any year.

Governor Manchin wants to get control over the thousands of state vehicles that are in use (and often misuse) all over the state. Barely a third of them are under any oversight - the administrative agencies use them as they wish. We need to get them all under central oversight. When we do, I believe we'll find out we don't need nearly as many as we have.

For several years a number of legislators (I included) have tried to give cities and towns more tools with which to force landlords to keep up their properties. Some of our municipalities have many rundown properties. A large percentage of these rundown properties are owned by out-of-town or even out-of-state landlords. Cities have little in the way of enforcement authority to force landlords to keep the properties in decent condition.

The governor proposed allowing municipalities to charge fees to landlords who don't keep up their properties. He also wants to enable cities to place liens on these owners' fire insurance policies. In addition to being firetraps rundown properties are incubators of crime. So I support this idea.

Governor Manchin wants to give the state School Building Authority more flexibility to accomplish its mission of building and renovating K-12 public schools. We're building more public schools at this moment than we ever have, but we can still do better.

The State Police have a Crimes Against Children unit serving the entire state. It operates out of Charleston with six troopers. The governor wants to double its size, with six additional troopers being additions to the entire State Police force. This is sorely needed.

Regular readers of this column will be familiar with the commission Governor Manchin appointed to study West Virginia's court system. The commission recommended an intermediate appellate court as well as a pilot project to publicly finance the elections for the two Supreme Court seats on the ballot for 2012. I think the commission didn't go far enough - I thought it should have recommended either an appointment process or non-partisan elections for our judiciary (which is now selected by partisan election). I also thought the commission should have recommended that the appropriations process for our judiciary be the same as for the federal system and all 49 of our sister states.

I was hoping Governor Manchin would exceed the commission's recommendations. Instead he fell short of them, recommending only the public financing pilot project. I've supported public financing of campaigns for many years, so I'll support this idea. But I wish we'd go further.

One other disappointment to me was his recommendation that public colleges and universities freeze tuition for the coming academic year. I don't mind this if it's one year only. I think the schools can find savings for that period of time.

But I hope this doesn't become regular policy. If the state doesn't give the institutions enough money to operate (I think we should, but we're not going to) and they can't get enough additional money from tuition the quality of academic programs will suffer.

While this year will be a difficult one, since we have some holes in the budget to patch, we're a lot better off than most states. We're one of the few states still pay-