Shepherd Professor's Printmaking in Juried Exhibition

Artwork by Rhonda Smith, professor of art, chair of the Department of Contemporary Art and Theater, and coordinator of the BFA printmaking program at Shepherd University, will be part of "Imprint: A Contemporary Printmaking Exhibition," January 21-February 21 at Target Gallery, Torpedo Factory Art Center, Alexandria, Va. Reception February 11, 6-8 pm with juror talk at 7 pm and printmaking demonstration 7:30-8 pm by Printmakers Inc. A juried exhibition, Imprint looks at contemporary printmaking trends. Juror Jane Haslem of Jane Haslem Gallery, Washington, D.C., chose 42 pieces by 37 artists nationally.

Information: Target Gallery 703-838-4565 or www.torpedofactory.org
Double Reed Day to be held

SHEPHERDSTOWN — The Shepherd University Department of Music will host its annual Double Reed Day on Feb. 13 from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Frank Arts Center on the Shepherd campus. The event is for “people who play” and “people who teach people to play” double reed instruments. The free one-day seminar is open to high school double reed players (grades 9-12), college students and instrumental music teachers and directors who have an interest in double reeds.

The day will be led by oboist Gregory Shook, applied professor of oboe at Shepherd University, and bassoonist Richard Polonchak, applied professor of bassoon at Shepherd University. Together with Anne Munro, applied professor of flute at Shepherd University, both perform regularly with Shepherd University’s new faculty wind trio, Shepherd Three.

Shook has performed extensively in the tri-state and D.C. metropolitan areas, performing with the National Symphony Orchestra, the Washington Opera, the Washington Bach Consort and the Harrisburg Symphony, in addition to pit orchestras at the National and Warner Theaters. In addition to his numerous performances as a solo and chamber music recitalist, Shook is co-founder and music director for Hagerstown Choral Arts, an auditioned choral group of 100 singers. He is a frequent workshop clinician and guest conductor in the area.

Polonchak was the former principal bassoonist of the United States Marine Band and of the White House Orchestra in Washington, D.C. His articles have appeared in The Instrumentalist, Woodwind World, The School Musician, The Double Reed and Bandworld magazine. He is the author of “Primary Handbook for Bassoon,” and is a contributing author to the upcoming “Woodwind Players Cookbook.”

The seminars will be devoted exclusively to working with oboe and bassoon performance techniques, the audition process and purchasing new and used instruments. The event will end with a Mass Double Reed Performance Ensemble open to all the participants who wish to play.

The seminar is free, but registration is required. For more information and/or a brochure and registration form, call Lisa Oswald at (304) 876-5555 or e-mail her at loswald@shepherd.edu.

The Shepherd University Department of Music will host its annual Double Reed Day on Feb. 13 from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Shepherd sponsors WVIAC tournament

SHEPHERDSTOWN — Shepherd University’s Athletics Department, Office of Alumni Relations and Alumni Association will sponsor the WVIAC Basketball Tournament 50th anniversary Alumni and Friends Weekend.

The WVIAC Basketball tournament and weekend activities will take place in Charleston on March 5-7.

On March 6, activities at the Clay Center, including the show “Stars on the Nile,” will begin at 10 a.m. Seating sections will be marked for each school.

During halftime of the men’s championship game, alumni and friends from each school will be recognized.

The full court package is $185 and includes a two-night stay at the Charleston Marriott Town Center, motor coach transportation to and from Charleston, admission to the pre-game reception and the WVIAC 50th anniversary women’s and men’s tournament games and a commemorative memento.

The half-court package is $95 and includes a two-night stay at the Charleston Marriott Town Center, admission to the pre-game reception and the WVIAC 50th anniversary women’s and men’s tournament games and a commemorative memento.

The bus will depart from Shepherd on March 5, and return to Shepherd on March 7.

The WVIAC Basketball Tournament is one of the oldest conference championships at any level of collegiate basketball.
Speaker says epithet’s power is racism

By KATE S. ALEXANDER
kate.alexander@herald-mail.com

SHEPHERDSTOWN, W.Va. — “I’m going to say one word,” Bruce A. Jacobs said.

“One word that carries more pain, more damage, more venom than any word in the entire American English language. One word that carries the fear, rage and heartbreak of families torn from families, one word not only drenched, but drowned in the blood, the gore, the untold suffering of a people denied opportunity and used as human chattel. One word that bears the weight of injustice felt every day.”

The racial epithet that escaped Jacobs’ lips fell on a silent audience Wednesday during his talk on privilege, racism, sexism, homophobia, religious discrimination and civility at Shepherd University.

For weeks, that word has bred controversy on the university campus for its inclusion in the student production of “Big River: The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn,” which will open Friday at the Frank Center Theater.

Jacobs’ talk came at a very opportune time, considering the brewing storm surrounding the musical, said Chris Johnson, director of multicultural student affairs and disability support services at Shepherd University.

“I knew he would be perfect,” she said.

Jacobs is an author and speaker whose book, “Race Manners for the 21st Century,” has recently been revised and updated.

Scheduled to speak as part of the university’s celebration of Black History Month, Jacobs did not shy away from the concerns raised by the musical and the impact felt by the campus.

Each person has an individual experience with the epithet, which peppers the play and the vocabulary of many Americans, he said.

While experiences with racism, sexism, homophobia and discrimination are as diverse as the American cultural landscape, the problem is that each experience is true, he said.

Were these “isms” not still a part of present-day reality, that epithet and other derogatory terms thrown at homosexuals, women, the disabled, and those of other ethnicities and religions would be meaningless, he said.

“If there was no difference between how I’m treated when I walk into a department store and when a similarly dressed white man walks into the store, the N-word would mean nothing,” he said. “That fact that racism is still real invests that word with power.”
Students, faculty, staff and the public were able to question Jacobs during the talk.

Dwayne Wright, assistant professor of education, questioned the role of religion in perpetuating social divides.

Derogatory terms derive power through the institutions of society, including religion and government, that drive wedges between groups and further divide the oppressed and the privileged, Jacobs said.

Opening honest discussion between people of various races, sexualities, religions and genders is key to addressing American "isms" and bringing about civility, he said.

One student questioned Jacobs on President Obama’s role in the fight against racism and the struggles he faces as a black man in the presidency.

Not denying Obama’s failed progress and obvious obstacles of race, Jacobs cautioned the audience to not count the president out yet.

To reclaim what he calls “true human nature,” the entire nation, not just the president, has two kinds of work to do, he said — political and relational.

“There is a point where there is no substitution for policy as all of this is man-made, manufactured every day by people and institutions,” he said. “We also have to understand that those conversations (addressing these issues) are survivable.”
Shepherd U. considers curriculum changes

By KATE S. ALEXANDER
kate.alexander@herald-mail.com

SHEPHERDSTOWN, W.Va. — Shepherd University faculty and students engaged in open discussions Wednesday on possible changes to the university's curriculum.

Carol Geary Schneider, president of the Association of American Colleges & Universities, facilitated the discussions by presenting her association's take on the integration of general studies curriculum into liberal arts education.

"This is a way we are already going," Shepherd University President Suzanne Shipley said. "What we are thinking about now is how to organize it for the future."

Schneider hosted a number of talks Wednesday addressing changing educational practices to integrate the "breadth and depth" tactics of the 20th century with emerging practices that focus on essential learning outcomes.

"We are not moving away from the quest for truth to the search for collaborative experiential learning, but rather that our notion of what it means to understand something well enough to make use of it," she said. "What we are trying to do is to educate students who can engage in principles and their significance while also being alert to and willing to learn from others about the complexity of any issue that we really care about."

Providing students with a "liberal education," or an education that "empowers individuals and prepares them to deal with complexity, diversity and change" by emphasizing "broad knowledge of the wider world as well as in-depth achievement in a specific field of interest," is critical, she said.

Liberal education produces students who not only learn, but are socially responsible with knowledge of the physical, natural and social world, she said.

Because graduates will work for between 10 and 14 employers by age 38, Schneider said parents need to understand the value of a liberal education, she said.

"Students need a liberal education to prepare for the elasticity of our economy, the jobs that are being invented now, the industries that are emerging as well as to help existing industries adapt to the future," she said. "Liberal education is the best and most practical preparation for the realities graduates will face in the 21st century."
Engaging students in the discussions that lead to changes in educational practices also was at the heart of Schneider’s talk with faculty and staff.

For some students at Shepherd, there is a disconnect between general studies and their chosen career path, said Naomi Lockley, a second year vocal music education major.

“I have even said before, ‘Why do I have to take this?,’ when it came to a general study class,” Lockley said. “I was a little impressed with the discussion because I did not know that there is a moving force behind (establishing the curriculum) giving thought to why we have to do what we do.”

Other students questioned why higher education herds them into majors rather than focusing on general education.

“I am not certain what I want to do, so I put a lot of emphasis on general studies classes,” said Elizabeth Noel Maddox, a second-year student who said she was required to declare a major. “I did not want to declare a major.”

Shipley said Shepherd University faculty will ultimately decide what changes, if any, are made to educational practices at the university.

Shepherd is in the preliminary stages of possibly reorganizing curriculum to integrate general studies and liberal education, she said.
**Shepherd set to host 'Big River' show**

SHEPHERDSTOWN — The Shepherd University Department of Music will present the musical theater production, “Big River: The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn” at 8 p.m. Friday, Saturday and Feb. 12 and 13 and at 3 p.m. Sunday and Feb. 14 in the Frank Center Theater.

General admission is $15, $10 for faculty, staff and students 18 and under, and free to Shepherd students and Friends of Music Gold and Silver MAC Cardholders.

For more information, call (304) 876-5555 or visit www.shepherd.edu/musicweb.

---

**Shepherd music announces lineup**

SHEPHERDSTOWN — The Shepherd University Department of Music has announced the following lineup:

* Feb. 19, 5 p.m.: Senior piano recital by Trevor Rowland in room M21 of the Frank Arts Center
* Feb. 19, 8 p.m.: Wind Ensemble concert in the Frank Center, with a pre-concert lecture at 7 p.m.
* Feb. 28, 3 p.m.: Senior voice recital by Laura Dixon in room M08 of the Frank Arts Center.

For more information, call (304) 876-5555 or visit www.shepherd.edu/musicweb.
Shepherd University's Scarborough Society to tour D.C.'s Newseum

The Scarborough Society of Shepherd University and the Shepherd University Foundation will be sponsoring a bus tour to the Newseum in Washington, D.C., Thursday, June 3. The bus will depart from Shepherd at 9:30 a.m. and return at approximately 6 p.m.

The trip will include lunch at the Newseum by Wolfgang Puck Catering services; a special presentation by John Splaine, consultant, and Rich Foster, education/special programs director; and time to explore the exhibits.

Located in the heart of D.C., the Newseum combines news history with modern technology and interactive displays. Along with several permanent galleries, the Newseum will be showcasing such special exhibits as "Tim Russert's News Office," "G-Men and Journalists," "First Dogs: Presidential Pets," and "Elvis! His Groundbreaking, Hip-Shaking, News-making Story."

The cost of the tour, including lunch, is $75 per person and is open to the public. Reservations must be made by May 11.

For more information, contact Phyllis Smock at 304-264-0560. To learn more about the Newseum, visit www.newseum.org.
Shepherd University Announces “Spirit of Black History” Events throughout February

Shepherdstown, WV - Shepherd University announced lineup of special events as part of its “Spirit of Black History Month” programs reflect the diversity and celebration of the month. Activities include a full production of the play “Big River,” an Afro-Brazilian Dance performance by Sul Da Bahia Capoeira, and a series of interviews with everyone from Hillary Shelton, Director of NAACP Washington Bureau, to Reggae artist Ziggy Marley, which will be aired on the University’s Web site and radio station WSHC- 89.7 fm.

“The theme that weaves through all of our programs is that we must find ways to come together,” says Christana Johnson, director of the University’s Multicultural Student Affairs and Disability Support Services, adding, “That means we must get closer to each other and to understanding more of ourselves.”

With that in mind, the University has opened up discussion groups and online forums where everyone from community members to students and their parents can discuss issues of diversity, multiculturalism, and the African American experience. Johnson also points out that the events were created collaboratively, bringing together faculty, students, staff and those in the Shepherdstown community. The Black History Month events also had full support from the President’s Office, where senior level staff was directly engaged in many of the activities.

“Black history has a dynamic in our courses and programming. We recognize the inherent value in observing Black History Month,” says Shepherd University President, Dr. Suzanne Shipley. “This region is rich in examples of leadership we can learn from and honor. It’s something that will last a student a lifetime.”

According to Dr. Shipley, developing the cultural empathy of students is of paramount importance for their personal and professional development. “Employers regularly point to cultural understanding as essential to success in the work place. Our students will only be truly successful in life if they have this.”

The community is also invited to attend the performances and join the online conversations. For more information, visit the Shepherd University Web site at www.shepherd.edu.
Double Reed Day at Shepherd University

The Shepherd University Department of Music will host its annual DOUBLE REED DAY on Saturday, February 13, 2010 from 9:00 AM to 4:30 PM at the Frank Arts Center on the Shepherd Campus. The event is for “people who play” and “people who teach people to play” double reed instruments. The free one-day seminar is open to high school double reed players (grades 9-12), college students and instrumental music teachers and directors who have an interest in double reeds.

The day will be led by oboist Gregory Shook, Applied Professor of Oboe at Shepherd University, and bassoonist Richard Polonchak, Applied Professor of Bassoon at Shepherd University. Together with Anne Munro, Applied Professor of Flute at Shepherd University, both perform regularly with Shepherd University's new faculty wind trio, Shepherd Three.

Mr. Shook has performed extensively in the tri-state and D.C. metropolitan areas, performing with the National Symphony Orchestra, the Washington Opera, the Washington Bach Consort and the Harrisburg Symphony, in addition to pit orchestras at the National and Warner Theaters. In addition to his numerous performances as a solo and chamber music recitalist, Mr. Shook is co-founder and Music Director for Hagerstown Choral Arts, an auditioned choral group of 100 singers. He is a frequent workshop clinician and guest conductor in the area.

Mr. Polonchak was the former Principal Bassoonist of The United States Marine Band—"The President's Own" and of the White House Orchestra in Washington, D.C. His articles have appeared in The Instrumentalist, Woodwind World, The School Musician, The Double Reed and Bandworld Magazine. He is the author of Primary Handbook for Bassoon, the bassoon audio/text for Embou-sure, published by Western International Band Clinic, and is a contributing author to the upcoming Woodwind Players Cookbook.

The seminars will be devoted exclusively to working with oboe and bassoon performance techniques, the audition process and purchasing new and used instruments. The event will end with a Mass Double Reed Performance Ensemble open to all the participants who wish to play.

The seminar is free but registration is required. For more information and/or a brochure and registration form, call Lisa Oswald at (304) 876-5555 or email at loswald@shepherd.edu.
‘Big River’ to premiere at Shepherd

By TROY ENNS-SMIDER / SPECIAL TO THE JOURNAL

SHEPHERDSTOWN — Shepherd University Music Department Chair Mark McCoy doesn’t know what the final script for Mark Twain’s collaborations with country music balladeer Roger Miller’s songwriting is going to be, but he’s glad they did it.

“Twain’s writing is funny anyway, and only Roger Miller can write a song about the Hudson river,” McCoy says. “There are harmonies and teaching ways. It’s great fun.”

The title suggests the happy and heartbreaking story of the mighty Mississippi River, which opened on Broadway in 1983 with music and lyrics by Miller. It is based on Twain’s famous 1844 story of Huck Finn. Tom Sawyer and the slave, Jim. William Hazeltine wrote the script from Twain’s book. It garnered 10 NAAFF nominations and won seven Tony awards, including Best Book of a Musical and Best Score. It received a revival in 2003 on Broadway, and then was touring off and on ever since. This time, Shepherd University is the setting, near our own river.

McCoys says in choosing shows, the department tries to choose a show with different styles of music. It also looks for musicals that cater to the strengths of the students and tell a good story.

“We do opera, Gilbert & Sullivan and other styles. This is a total change of pace,” he says. “I think it will be obvious why it was so many Tony awards.”

“Big River” features a huge cast and score of Country, gospel, folk, and country and blues. The role of Tom is double cast with the lead role of Slave being Big River. holding ballad where the Big River holds the songwriting style as background. In the way, “Huck Finn” and Tom Sawyer realises that while they are racially different, they still see things the same.

After 156 years, Twain’s tale still tells a timeless story about race relations. “Tom is one of the most important stories set in the 1850’s,” says McCoy, “and shows on the beautiful relationship between a young white boy and a slave, and the boy’s efforts to keep free him.”

The characters get into two big adventures or scrape after another, while learning about themselves and friendship.

“It shows how far we’ve come as a country,” says McCoy. “We’ve come from slavery to a time when America has its first black president.”

He says it is sometimes tough for us to play historically, but it is a unique way. “We producers have been so richly blessed in every way, in a very unusual and exciting way. It’s not offensive in any way.”

Mark Aitchberger, 21, plays Tom. He is a vocal performance major in his senior year and a veteran of Shepherd productions. “I know the general story, but I don’t know the Tom Sawyer songs better. When we got to do Big River, we really worked on the material,” he says. “Big River is very young at the beginning of the story, wide-eyed, and thinking everything is fun and wholesome. His imagination is running free. But he experiences a lot. His relationship with Jim causes him to see the world for what it actually is rather than a child’s view. He has always liked Jim, but was taught that had to be dead, and whites had to be white. He realises that in both situations.”

Matthew Lincoln Bugg, 21, plays Jim. He is a vocal education major and voiced of supporting roles at Shepherd.

He says realism that Jim loved his family as much as the other people Black knew. Black or white, the feelings were the same.

“I’m a future in how well the character. He is a future of how well the character. He is a future of how well the character. He is a future of how well the character.”

The show is set for 8 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays, and 3 p.m. Sundays from this Friday through Feb. 14 at Shepherd University’s Frank Center.

Ticket information is available by calling (304) 876-5555 or visiting www.shepherd.edu/musicdept.

Dates: February 4, 2010
Publication: The Journal

IF YOU GO

What: ‘Big River: The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn’
Where: Shepherd University’s Frank Center
When: 8 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays, and 3 p.m. Sundays from this Friday through Feb. 14
For more info: (304) 876-5555 or www.shepherd.edu/musicdept

Shepherd University’s Music Department is presenting ‘Big River: The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn’ beginning this weekend.

There are so many locations. For most of it, they are on a hill in the middle of the forest. We have the roll and rhythm, we never had to a musical before, but we know how to do it passionately, and the show will be wrapped up in music and very well told. The show is a very powerful story, and it is very encouraging,” he says.

The show is set for the 8 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays, and 3 p.m. Sundays from this Friday through Feb. 14 at Shepherd University’s Frank Center.

Ticket information is available by calling (304) 876-5555 or visiting www.shepherd.edu/musicdept.
State colleges may freeze tuition just for this year
By Phil Kabler
Staff writer

CHARLESTON, W.Va. -- West Virginia colleges and universities should be able to follow Gov. Joe
Manchin’s mandate for no tuition increases this year -- but only for this year, the chancellor of the
Higher Education Policy Commission said Thursday.

"We can hold the line on fees this year," Chancellor Brian Noland told the House Finance
Committee, "but down the road, we will not be able to do so."

He warned that the future looks grim for the state's higher education system, as economic woes
now hitting neighboring states will take its toll on West Virginia colleges and universities.

"You're seeing states struggling with fee increases and, more importantly, struggling with
furloughs, layoffs and elimination of academic programs," Noland said.

Despite neighboring states having cut higher education budgets, their per-student spending is still
above West Virginia's.

"Even as much as they have fallen," Noland said, "they have not gotten down to the level with us."

Higher education funding will worsen in the near future, as institutions exhaust federal economic
stimulus funds, Noland said.

"In a year and a half, stimulus funds will be removed, and we'll be looking at 5 percent, and then
10 percent budget cuts," he said.

In addition to financial issues, West Virginia colleges will deal with a shrinking pipeline of in-state
high school graduates, Noland said.

By 2021, state high schools will be producing nearly 1,800 fewer graduates each year than in the
peak year of 2008, he said.

"The legislative audit that we all have questions about, I think, we will have to take seriously,"
Noland said of a recent finding that concluded West Virginia has more colleges than it can support.

He said an additional factor undercutting state colleges and universities is that a relatively low 57
percent of state high school graduates go on to attend college, and many who do attend are
inadequately prepared for college courses.

He noted that a significant percentage of freshmen at all colleges except West Virginia University
and Shepherd University take remedial courses, and said remedial students have notably lower
odds of graduating.

Noland said the average ACT math score for West Virginia students in 2009 was 19.6, below the
national average of 21.0.

"What it says to me is, half the students graduating high school in West Virginia do not have a
high-enough [test] score to be placed in college-level algebra," he said.
He said the low graduation rates are a significant concern, particularly since in-state students take on an average student loan debt of nearly $4,700 a year.

"They're going home with debts ... and nothing to show for it," Noland said of college dropouts.

Also Thursday, committee members debated the findings of the legislative audit concluding that West Virginia has too many four-year institutions.

Legislative manager Aaron Allred said the point of the report was to show that the state has a system of state colleges that pre-dates interstate highways and integration.

He noted that WVU Tech now has to compete with WVU for engineering students from this area — which wasn’t the case before Interstate 79 was completed in the 1980s.

Likewise, he said, "If you were going to design a higher education system today, you wouldn’t have a Bluefield [State] and Concord [in Mercer County]," Allred said.

Delegate John Doyle, D-Jefferson, disputed the audit's findings.

"If you close one of these institutions, one of two things will happen: [students] will either go to another institution or they won’t go to college."

Allred said he recognizes that it's politically impossible to close any state colleges. He cited Manchin's failed attempt in 2006 to move WVU Tech engineering classes to state-of-the-art facilities at the Tech Center in South Charleston.

"Rightly or wrongly," Allred said, "the little old ladies from Montgomery ran him over."

Reach Phil Kabler at ph...@wvgazette.com or 304-348-1220.
Shepherd students volunteer in midst of snowstorm

SHEPHERDSTOWN – As residents of the Eastern Panhandle continue to dig their way out of the snow that fell in record amounts over the last week, students from Shepherd University are leading the way in efforts to help the residents of Jefferson County.

On Tuesday, eleven students from the Lambda Chi Alpha fraternity helped shovel out fire hydrants in Shepherdstown, clear a path for a local homeowner and assist the American Red Cross in moving their Jefferson County shelter from Jefferson High School to Covenant Church.

Holly Frye, director of student community services and service learning at Shepherd University, helped coordinate the effort with the students.

“Shepherd University students are known for their volunteer spirit,” Frye said. “Whenever there is a need in the community, our students are ready to help. All it took was one call and I had 11 volunteers ready to go.”

The original goal for the students was to offer their assistance by shoveling snow for Shepherdstown residents who were unable to do so themselves.

However, after speaking with Ross Morgan, the town’s Fire Chief, it was discovered that uncovering town fire hydrants was also a priority.

In addition, the group also received a call from the Jefferson County Emergency Operations Center asking for assistance in moving the Red Cross Shelter.

Frye said that it’s always special when students, who could stay in their residence halls, choose to help others.

“The guys had a great time,” she said. “Lots of bonding took place while the work was completed. Lots of snow balls were thrown, lots of laughing, and lots of shoveling. I believe whenever our students get out of their comfort zone to help others, they see a part of the community that they most likely haven’t seen before.”

Like many of the organizations at Shepherd, the Lambda Chi Alpha fraternity provides service to the community.

The Office of Student Community Services and Service Learning at Shepherd coordinates both community service initiatives, such as the one in which the Lambda Chi Alpha students participated, and service learning initiatives with faculty to achieve or enhance the learning outcomes of a particular course.

More information about service learning programs at Shepherd University is available by contacting Frye at hfrye@shepherd.edu.

— Staff reports