

An Explosion of Growth for an Age-Old Game

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHARLESTON, W.Va. (AP) — At spring break, Joe Ernst took his college athletes on a memorable trip to compete in their thriving sport.

Basketball? Nope. Baseball? Guess again. The Southwestern University team headed north from Texas to play lacrosse in Michigan.

What was once a niche sport in New England and the Middle Atlantic is now one of the fastest-growing games in the United States.

In the three N.C.A.A. divisions, 20 women's lacrosse teams and 12 men's teams made their debuts this year, most of them in Division III — including Southwestern. At least two dozen teams are scheduled to come on board next year.

The reasons are simple. It can be relatively inexpensive to start a lacrosse team, and the games are fast paced and high scoring.

Several colleges that are expanding their athletic programs cited the need to boost enrollment and thereby generate more tuition, particularly in Divisions II and III, where athletes often do not receive scholarships.

"It is just blowing up at the Division III level, particularly moving westward," said Ernst, Southwestern's coach. "There's really no expenditure on our part. It's equipment and travel."

Four of this year's new N.C.A.A. teams are outside the Eastern time zone, including a women's team at Carthage College in Wisconsin and a men's team at the Milwaukee School

of Engineering.

“I definitely didn’t come to school expecting to turn into a Division III lacrosse player,” said Milwaukee goalkeeper Ian Wilson, who had last played lacrosse as a freshman in high school in Illinois. “It’s the exact opposite of what I thought I would be doing my senior year.”

The debut of Southwestern — the first N.C.A.A. men’s lacrosse program in Texas — comes nearly four decades after Navy and Johns Hopkins played the first varsity college game in the state at the Astrodome in Houston, according to US Lacrosse, the sport’s national governing body.

Southwestern, located about 25 miles north of Austin, had success as a club team. Investing in lacrosse was seen as a way to boost male and out-of-state enrollment, Ernst said.

“They wanted to be the first,” he said.

Being a pioneer is nice, but it also poses a scheduling challenge.

Southwestern’s inaugural varsity season started with a four-day trip to California, followed by a two-game swing in St. Louis. After the first of only three scheduled home games, Ernst packed up his squad, led by the 275-pound attacker Ed Williams, and headed to Michigan for games with two Division III opponents. The Pirates are still searching for a victory.

“Once we win a couple of games, I think it will start blossoming,” said Ernst, who previously coached at Mercyhurst North East Junior College in Pennsylvania.

Some other programs have brought in coaches with Division I pedigrees.

Division III Lebanon Valley College in Pennsylvania hired John Haus to revive its men’s lacrosse team. Haus led North Carolina and Johns Hopkins to N.C.A.A. tournament appearances and won the 1998 Division III championship at Washington, Md.

Michele Uhlfelder was hired to coach the women at Division III Occidental College in Los Angeles after earning six conference titles at Stanford.

Amanda O’Leary left Yale in 2007 after 14 seasons, including two N.C.A.A. tournament appearances, to start a women’s team at Florida. The game may seem out of place at a Southern football powerhouse — and 23 players are from the lacrosse hotbeds of Maryland and New York — but O’Leary takes heart in the fact that the women’s soccer program at

Florida won a national championship in 1998, four years after its debut.

“If there’s already a team that has done it, this is awesome,” she said.


Part of the reason lacrosse is catching on is that, although it was invented by North American Indians hundreds of years ago, it has echoes of popular modern sports. It combines the back-and-forth movement of soccer, the motion plays and contact of basketball, and the sticks, hand skills and setup behind the goal found in hockey.

“The sport lends itself to the strategies of other sports that the kids kind of pick up on,” said Brian Logue, a US Lacrosse spokesman.

The number of high school lacrosse players more than doubled in the last decade and 21 states now host championships, including North Carolina and South Carolina beginning this year. Illinois has added it for 2011.

Participation in N.C.A.A. lacrosse has grown 105 percent since 1988-89 to 15,730 athletes in 2007-8, according to the N.C.A.A.’s 2009 participation survey.

Over a 10-year period ending in 2007-8, the N.C.A.A. said there were 88 new women’s teams and 42 new men’s teams.

 Karen Sutphin said she was looking for a college that offered environmental science, and she found it at Shepherd University in West Virginia, two hours from her home in Baltimore. Shepherd did not offer lacrosse then, but Sutphin helped organize a club team. Less than two years later, the university made lacrosse a varsity sport. . On Monday, the team earned its first win after an 0-3 start.

“It’s an extra thing to do that’s fun,” Sutphin said.

Varsity lacrosse has another potential benefit. According to the N.C.A.A., among freshmen entering school from 1999 to 2002, the graduation rate of lacrosse players was the highest among 17 men’s sports and tied for second with gymnastics — behind skiing at No. 1 — among 18 women’s sports.

“Across the country, it’s amazing,” O’Leary said. “I’m getting e-mails from recruits from Michigan and places that really aren’t hotbeds. It really is growing nationwide and it’s exciting.”



Dates: March 29, 2010

Publication: West Virginia Public Broadcasting

Two WV colleges offer online roommate matching

By Cecelia Mason

March 29, 2010 · Filling residence halls at colleges can be a laborious task, shuffling through applications trying to figure out whether personalities match, but at two West Virginia schools students can now find roommates online.

Both West Virginia University and Shepherd University hope their on-line room mate matching software will lead to more harmonious dorm life.

WVU and its two sister schools, Potomac State and WVU Institute of Technology are in the second year of using on-line room mate matching software developed by the University.

“The students now can select their room, they can choose their roommates, they can choose their room type,” Corey Farris, director of housing and university apartments, said.

In years past, students filled out paper applications answering two or three questions and Farris’ staff would sift through the paperwork matching roommates.

Farris said the computer software allows students to learn more details about each other than the old paper applications did because they answer about 20 questions designed to create a more accurate profile.

“For example one of the questions we’ll ask is ‘do you listen to music?’ and we’ll also ask ‘what kind of music?’ because hard rock or rap or country and western or classical or jazz, not all those musical preferences will work out together if you’re living together,” Farris said.

“They’ll post it on-line and so they click a button and it will then come up with a rank order of other students that have answered the questions similarly.”

While WVU designed its own software, Shepherd University has begun a three year trial with an off the shelf program called Roommate Click.

Jonathan Calbretta, graduate residence hall director, said the program is basically a matchmaking and social networking service that allows students to find a roommate based on various criteria.

“They can answer some profile questions including interests, areas they like to go on campus, for instance we include things like the wellness center, library, cooking or intramural sports,”

Calbretta said. “Maybe they’re artists and want to live with other artists, or maybe they’re artists and don’t want to live with other artists.”

All colleges have to deal with conflicts that arise when roommates don't get along. Both universities hope that having students choose who they live with will mitigate many of these problems.

Calbretta said students using Roommate Click also answer question designed to reveal living preferences and habits like music and TV and computer sharing.

"Are you willing to share your electronics and other things that students bring with them or is it really an ask me and I'll let you or we can discuss that the first day," Calbretta said.

All are issues and conflicts that can arise.

"For a lot of students moving to campus could be the first time they've had to share an intimate space like a bedroom," Calbretta said.

"They're not necessarily used to the transition from living in a family environment where all the rules and boundaries have been created over the last 17 or 18 years so this is the first time where they have to engage that type of boundary development."

Shepherd just launched its on-line roommate matching service and returning students are using it to line housing up for next year.

WVU students have used that school's service for one full year and Farris said the university will soon be able to evaluate its success.

Shepherd sets \$80K Relay goal

By ERIENNE GREENE
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

SHEPHERDSTOWN — Shepherd University's eighth Relay For Life will be held April 16, and organizers are setting the bar high with their biggest fundraising goal to date.

Organizers are hoping to raise \$80,000, a tough goal in today's economy, but that's not stopping them from bringing the campus together and going for the goal.

Holly Frye, director of student community service and service learning, says that it won't be done without the entire campus and town working together.

"Our No. 1 goal is to honor survivors of cancer," Frye said. "If at the end we've done that, we've done our job."

Frye said that the second goal is to promote education, awareness and advocacy.

"Despite the economy, Shepherd students are still determined to raise as much money as possible," she said. "The biggest goal is to honor survivors and those who have died from cancer, and to find a cure."

To help spread the word, the Office of Student Community Service and Service Learning partnered with the Department of Communications' music video class to produce a Relay For Life promotion video.

After brainstorming with Kevin Williams, chair of the communications department, the class took the project on and covered everything from filming to editing.

"The students have made it and become passionate about it," Frye said.

Jeff Birdsall, a student in the class, wrote the music for the video.

Departments around campus, including the president's executive staff, the dining hall and enrollment management staff, participated in the filming.

Student groups, including the Student Government Association executive staff, also participated in the video.

"It shows that the entire campus can be involved to find a cure," Frye said.

Once complete, the video will be used to market Relay For Life and will be available to view on YouTube and the Office of Student Community Service and Service Learning Web site.

Despite their busy schedules, 20 students have shown their dedication to the cause, and since January have been getting up at 5 a.m. to attend the 6 a.m. committee meeting at the Wellness Center to plan this year's event.

"It really shows the student's determination by getting up that early," Frye said.

This year's Relay theme is "Superheroes and Birthdays" to honor the survivors who are considered superheroes and to encourage more birthdays and less cancer.

Organizers have teamed up with the Shepherdstown Business Association to "paint the town purple" in honor of Relay For Life.

Beginning April 5, and continuing through April 17, shops and parking meters will showcase purple ribbons and purple donation feet will be for sale around town to display in shops and on windows.

"It's all about bringing the community and campus together," Frye said.

This year, campus radio station WSHC will be partnering with Relay For Life to provide

Relay

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live coverage of fundraising totals, special events and interviews with participants.

The totals of figures raised will be updated regularly and listeners can donate through the station's Web site throughout the event.

In addition, those interested in following Shepherd Relay For Life as they reach totals and hold fundraisers can do so through Facebook and Twitter.

Each person involved with Relay For Life has a reason for participating.

In Frye's case, it was the loss of a family member to cancer that made her decide to participate in Relay for Life.

"I participate in Relay because I am sick and tired of worrying about my children getting cancer," she said. "I want them to be able to be safe and healthy, and I don't want them growing up with fear."

Roger Hart, event chair, lost his grandfather, grandmother and, most recently, his mother to cancer.

"I want to get rid of it so I don't have to see any other family members go through what they did," Hart said.

Sponsors for this year's Relay For Life include Welsh Sound, Charles Town Races & Slots, Pepsi, Shepherdstown Business Association, Shepherd University Dining Services, WSHC, Shepherd University Wellness Center and the Shepherd University Police Department.

A Survivor's Brunch will be held in lower level dining hall at 1 p.m. April 11.

Registration for Relay For Life begins at 2:30 p.m. April 16.

Campsites can be set up at 1 p.m., and events continue with the Torch Run on German Street at 4 p.m., Survivors Lap at 6 p.m., Luminary Ceremony at 10 p.m. and The Fight Back Ceremony at 5:30 a.m. on April 17.

The last lap will be made at sunrise.

According to organizers of the event, only registered walkers are eligible for the Relay T-shirt and a free meal from Charles Town Races & Slots.

More information is available by calling the Office of Student Community Services and Service Learning at 304-876-5402 or visiting www.shepherd.edu/scsweb/relay.htm.

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Pictured from the left are Ed Piatek, Walter Johnson, Nick Drozda, Emad Khan, Reza Mirdamadi, Nicholas Lance, Brandon Rudy and Bryan Hansel.

Students build solar-powered cart

By ERIENNE GREENE
 JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

SHEPHERDSTOWN — At an open house held on campus earlier this month, Shepherd University's engineering program recently unveiled its biggest project to date: a solar-powered golf cart.

"I hope that it will leave a legacy at Shepherd," said Walter Johnson, a returning freshman student who has been managing the project. "The hope is that it will be a

credit the department. This is the biggest project to date for the department."

The idea for the project came out of a brainstorming session for a class project held at the beginning of the fall semester in the Engineering 101 course.

Since then, work has continued, and another class was added this semester to allow 10 of the original students to continue finishing the project.

To date, Johnson, who is majoring in mathematics with

"I hope that it will leave a legacy at Shepherd. ...The hope is that it will be a credit the department. This is the biggest project to date."

— Walter Johnson
 student

a concentration in engineering, said that the project has added up to more than 300 man-hours and more than \$5,000 in supplies, some of which has been donated.

The golf cart itself was

found on the Internet.

"Funding was secured from local businesses, and the engineering program fronted other funding needed to complete the project," Johnson said.

The goal of the group was to make a cart that was self-sufficient so that it would charge on its own.

Johnson said that the plan to complete the project,

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Cart

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is for the cart to be used as an example for future classes. The cart also will be used at open houses to highlight the department.

Reza Mirdamadi, associate professor of engineering and chair of the department of computer science, mathematics and engineering, said that the remaining students from last semester who are completing the project were given designated tasks, including design, panel set-up, working the controls and setting up the cart's motor.

"The main purpose of the department is to entice and excite students," Mirdamadi said.

The department is trying to do that through hands-on, collaborative work by giving the students a real-life project where they can utilize teamwork and effective communication.

Mirdamadi said that the students' project will raise the bar for future class projects, which is a main component of the Engineering

101 course.

Major donors include BP Solar of Frederick, Md., which donated three solar panels at a value of \$4,500.

According to Mirdamadi, panels are donated on a very limited basis and only a few organizations receive donations globally each year.

Other donations include batteries from AutoZone and Martinsburg Auto Parts, both of Martinsburg. Paint for the cart was donated by Parsons Ford in Martinsburg and pickup service to have the cart transported to Shepherd was donated by Fairway Homes Services.

The students are raffling off a pair of pearl earrings valued at \$90 and a \$25 gift certificate from Christian Caine Jewelers in Shepherdstown to raise money for the project. Two gift baskets also will be raffled off.

The raffle drawing will be held at the admission department's next open house on Saturday, and tickets can be purchased until the drawing.

More information, including tickets, is available by e-mailing wjohn01@shepherd.edu.

Shepherd students plan events

Shepherd senior exhibit beginning today

SHEPHERDSTOWN —
Shepherd University seniors
Chelsea Hosey, of Little Birch,
and Brittany Smith, of Clifton,
Va., will present their senior
exhibit, Obsessive Creative

Drawings, in the Scarborough
Library reading room beginning
today and continuing through
Wednesday. An opening recep-
tion will take place from 5 to 7
p.m. today.

Obsessive Creative Drawings
will showcase a mix of illustra-
tive narratives and nonrepresenta-
tional paintings and drawings.

Hosey's work is inspired by
graphic novels. Her drawings are
presented in short panel narra-
tives that tell the story through
image alone. Hosey prefers to
work in pen and ink due to all
the strong linework she can
achieve. Hosey will continue at
Shepherd for another semester

before graduating in the fall of
2010. She plans to create graph-
ic novels.

Smith's art contains organic
shapes, flowing line work,
obsessive mark-making and
bright colors. All the forms
interact in a landscape of
abstraction. Smith will be gradu-
ating this spring with a Bachelor
of Fine Arts in painting. She
plans to join the military after
graduation.

For more information, contact
Hosey at 304-876-4357 or
chosey01@shepherd.edu, or
Brittany Smith at 703-400-
6233 or
bsmith11@shepherd.edu.

Photoworks showcase to feature local student

SHEPHERDSTOWN —
Photoworks of Leesburg, Va.,
will be showcasing "Synthetic
Glamour," an exhibit of work by
a Shepherd University senior
photographer Ben Schonberger.

The exhibit will be on display
from 6 to 9 p.m. Friday at
Photoworks, 2a Loudoun St. SW,
in Leesburg.

The show is a collection of
new work from Schonberger,
consisting of large color images.
"Synthetic Glamour" will be part
of Leesburg's popular first Friday
gallery walk. Schonberger's

images explore the elements of
kitsch through a transformation
of environment and space.

"'Synthetic Glamour' is an
examination of the balance
between beauty and kitsch as
defined by the context of the photo-
graphic image," Schonberger said.

He is a senior photography
and computer imagery major at
Shepherd. Originally from
Leesburg, Schonberger currently
lives in Shepherdstown. He plans
to graduate with his bachelor of
fine arts degree in the fall 2010.
Schonberger has concentrated his
focus and direction on studio-
based photography. He currently
is working as Shepherd's studio

manager, where he assists stu-
dents with various technical
issues and classroom assign-
ments. Following graduation,
Schonberger hopes to attend
graduate school and pursue a
master's degree in photography.

More information is available
by calling him at 703-727-2919.

Shepherd plans study abroad trip to Russia

SHEPHERDSTOWN – Shepherd University's Department of Business Administration has planned a faculty-led, study-abroad spring break trip to Russia in conjunction with the Department of Political Science from March 10 through March 21, 2011.

Moscow and St. Petersburg will be on the trip itinerary. The tour, including air fare, train and ferry fares, hotels, and most meals, is \$2,669. An option to visit Estonia and Helsinki, Finland, is available for an additional \$495. The entire trip including the cost of a visa, tips and travel insurance is less than \$3,600. There is a \$150 discount for anyone who registers before April 8, and a \$95 reduction for anyone who has traveled with EF Tours before.

Information and registration is available at www.eftours.com (tour No. 416478), or by contacting Dr. Gordon DeMeritt at gdemerit@shepherd.edu or 304-876-5350.

Shepherd selected for a mini-grant

SHEPHERDSTOWN – Shepherd University was one of eight state schools to receive a Global Youth Service Day mini-grant from West Virginia Campus Compact.

West Virginia Campus Compact is West Virginia's lead agency for Global Youth Service Day 2010, and is able to provide the mini-grants through a \$2,000 Lead Agency Grant from Youth Service America.

Shepherd will use its mini-grant to help fund the Potato Project, an event that was successfully organized in the past, which will provide truckloads of produce to state food pantries.

Established in 1988, Global Youth Service Day is the largest service event in the world and is now celebrated in more than 100 countries.

Global Youth Service Day is an annual campaign that celebrates and mobilizes the millions of children and youth who improve their communities each day of the year through service and service-learning.

2010 session: Slim pickings statewide

The Doyle Report



By Del. John Doyle

As we discussed here two weeks ago, the recently completed regular session of the State Legislature was exceptionally successful for Jefferson County.

However, not much was accomplished from a statewide point of view. Most of the really important issues went unresolved. Herewith a rundown of the Legislature's actions affecting the entire state.

The House of Delegates passed a major improvement to the ethics law governing the financial conduct of public officials, as well as a proposed constitutional amendment affecting business personal property taxes. The Senate failed to act on either.

The House and Senate both passed a comprehensive higher education bill that would have extended the flexibility now enjoyed by our state's two largest institutions of higher learning (West Virginia University and Marshall University) to smaller schools like Shepherd University. The bill would have also changed some per-

sonnel rules. That bill was discovered at the last minute to be technically flawed, so was not submitted to the governor for his signature (necessary for it to become law).

Nothing major was done regarding K-12 education because Governor Joe Manchin indicated early on he wanted a special session in May to deal with that issue. The reason for the wait was to see how we did in competition with other states in the new federal "race to the top" funding (very poorly, it turned out). The May special session might quite possi-

bly include fixing the technically flawed higher education bill, as well. We also failed to resolve the serious problem we have adequately funding public employee "post-employment" benefits. A committee did work diligently on this, and I think we'll have a solution next year. There will be pain to be shared.

While the Legislature did not pass laws creating an intermediate appellate court or making the election of judges non-partisan (or having judges be appointed), two

important judicial reforms were approved. We created some "chancery" (business law) courts and we authorized public funding for the two State Supreme Court races on the ballot in 2012 as a "pilot project." I've supported public funding of elections for many years.

To try and save some regional jail costs we permitted counties that still have their own jails to house arrested people for up to 96 hours in those county jails. The regional jail system was created almost thirty years ago because federal courts had ruled that most of West

Virginia's county jails were inadequate for housing prisoners more than a few days. The Legislature passed what I call the "50K and 50 miles" bill. Presently, any construction project worth over \$100,000 must employ workers who live in West Virginia or within 75 miles of the state's borders. Those numbers were changed respectively to \$50,000 and 50 miles. Cities will have more authority to deal with the owners of dilapidated and abandoned buildings under two bills we passed. I strongly supported

both bills and consider them both quite necessary.

A new law will change the way West Virginia handles Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol (DUI). Now, if the Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) suspends your license because of a DUI, you have the right to appeal to, guess who, the DMV! That's like being found guilty in court by a judge and having the right to appeal your case to the same judge who found you guilty. This new law changes that - you can appeal to

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a magistrate.

A great deal of attention was paid to what I call the "Optometrist-Ophthalmologist War." Optometrists (who are not medical doctors) wanted to be given the right to perform some simple surgeries. Ophthalmologists (who are medical doctors) strongly opposed the measure. The argument for allowing optometrists do some simple surgeries is that many communities in our state have no ophthalmologists. Ophthalmologists argued that optometrists lacked sufficient training. Optometrists said they

did. So's your old man.

I supported a compromise bill (some surgeries would be allowed, but not laser surgeries) that passed the House. It was further watered down in the Senate.

As you, gentle reader, might have already deduced, many issues were in the limelight this year that in other years would have gotten scant attention.

— Delegate John Doyle, D-Jefferson, represents the 57th District in the West Virginia House of Delegates.