

ISSUED: 22 October 2009
MEDIA CONTACT: Valerie Owens
(Shepherd student from Frederick realizes his dream to be an artist and art teacher)

SHEPHERDSTOWN, WV--Shepherd University senior Jonathan Hearn, of Frederick, Maryland, will be taking something unique into the high school classroom when he begins student teaching this winter.

"The history and process of art is typically taught in high schools; however, many schools don't expose students to contemporary art," the senior noted. "That's my passion. I am eager to introduce students to the joy of contemporary art. I believe I can help them understand and appreciate how it has evolved and taken its place in our society."

Hearn chose Shepherd University for his bachelor's degree because he was impressed with the artwork of Shepherd's faculty and students, which places a focus on contemporary art. In addition to teaching, Hearn is an artist who specializes in printmaking. He feels that his studies at Shepherd University have helped him develop a style that he's excited about, one that incorporates acrylics into his print pieces. Later in his senior year, he will have an exhibit of his own work in Shepherdstown.

Create the Future, the Shepherd University capital and endowment campaign, strives to offer students like Jonathan Hearn a high quality education that is affordable and accessible. Funds raised in the campaign promote excellence through endowed programs, endowed faculty positions, and student scholarships. To date, the campaign has raised \$16 million toward a \$20 million goal.

For more information on the Create the Future campaign, visit www.shepherd.edu/create.

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(Shepherd student from Vienna, Virginia, studies his craft in Italy)

SHEPHERDSTOWN, WV--Shepherd University junior Nate Loda, of Vienna, Virginia, has found himself far from home this year. Studying in Italy, Loda is working on a bachelor of fine arts degree with a concentration in painting. He is also working on a second major in Spanish.

His art includes work in painting, drawing, and ceramics, which incorporates classical approaches while blending historic techniques with contemporary concepts and ideas.

"Italy is probably one of the best countries for studying art," Loda said. "With a history known for producing some of the greatest and most influential artists in the world, Italy offers the opportunity to study directly from the great masters and be inspired by the countless works of art that seem to cover every corner of this beautiful country."

Loda said that growing up in Vienna had a large impact on his work as an artist. Living close to D.C. as a child, he explored art galleries and national museums. He stated that the amount of cultural diversity around northern Virginia inspired him to learn many different approaches to art and what its significance is in various cultures and society.

"My art is constantly changing and developing as my sphere of interests and activities is constantly widening," stated Loda. "I try to explore diverse styles, techniques, and media to further my knowledge and understanding of what art is and how it can make a difference in our lives. My work is heavily influenced by my travels, past experiences, and art history."

Loda has big plans for his future. After graduating from Shepherd University, he hopes to provide volunteer service in Central America with Art Corporation, an organization that sends artists to work for environmental, health, or human rights groups, using art as a tool for building community cooperation and advancing social change initiatives. After his volunteer service he plans to attend graduate school in preparation for a teaching career. He also hopes to work as a studio artist.

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(Berkeley Springs Shepherd student dedicates herself to health care)

SHEPHERDSTOWN, WV--Shepherd University senior Emily McCoy is a woman with a mission. As a child, she spent time in a hospital for an illness and saw firsthand the value of great nursing. It also helped that her grandmother was a nurse who shared with her exciting stories about serving people in need.

When McCoy decided upon a nursing career, the Shepherd University nursing program offered just what she wanted: the program was well respected, the university was close to home, and she liked the idea of a smaller campus based in a lovely old town.

McCoy's love for volleyball paid off with a Moler Athletics Scholarship which provided her with much-needed financial support as she began her studies. "I am so fortunate to have a wonderful coach, Sarah Smith, who encourages me in my academic studies," stated McCoy. She also receives a great deal of support from the nursing program faculty. "Dr. Charlotte Anderson, Dr. Laura Clayton, and Prof. Kathy Dilley all have been wonderful. They respect my interest in both sports and nursing," she said.

In addition to studying and playing on the volleyball team, McCoy has worked at the Winchester (Virginia) Medical Center in the intensive care unit. This may seem like a heavy schedule but McCoy thrives on it. She's looking ahead to a career in nursing, perhaps traveling to hospitals across the country on short-term assignments. She's eager to see other areas while providing nursing care.

McCoy's dedication to nursing is clear. She has received the McCormack Scholarship for Nursing, the Moler General Scholarship, and the Florence and Velma Shaw Memorial Scholarship through the Shepherd University Foundation. Through hard work, help from faculty and coaches, and support from scholarships, McCoy is closer than ever to realizing her dream to become an excellent nurse, just like her grandmother.

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