Clockwise, from top right: President Suzanne Shipley (center) honors Bob and Tia McMillan by awarding them the President’s Award for their many contributions to Shepherd and the community.

PBS NewsHour anchor and executive editor Jim Lehrer was presented an honorary doctorate. Pictured (l. to r.) are Dr. Jason Best, president of the Faculty Senate, President Shipley, Lehrer, and Mary Clare Eros, chair of the Shepherd University Board of Governors.

Lehrer delivers the commencement address to the Class of 2011.

Dr. Robert Warburton (r.) joins chemistry graduate Nithin Appani and his family.

Graduates and their families enjoy the post-Commencement reception sponsored by the Alumni Association.

The national anthem was played during the ceremony by trumpeters Nicholas Corasaniti, Samuel Maconachy, and David Hersh, graduating seniors who were awarded a bachelor of music education degree.
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From the President
Anniversaries, milestones, and traditions

Colleges and universities are built upon tradition. Significant milestones are celebrated with fanfare, and Shepherd University will celebrate several notable and remarkable anniversaries this year.

Foremost is the 50-year anniversary of the Shepherd University Foundation. Over a half century, the Foundation has grown from a group of volunteers to a professionally staffed organization that manages $27 million in assets that assist students in attaining a Shepherd degree and provide program and faculty funding.

Also celebrating the 50-year mark is the McMurran Scholar award, started in 1961 to honor students for their academic achievement, and Delta Sigma Pi, a fraternity for men and women studying business whose active alumni involvement provides many networking opportunities.

Shepherd University has had the good fortune to attract and retain a dedicated group of faculty and staff. One of the most visible is Coach Monte Cater, who will be celebrating his 25th season coaching football at Shepherd. Coach Cater exemplifies professionalism that is evident not only in the number of games won, but in the high standards he sets for the football program and the quality of the young men the program produces under his watchful eye.

In addition to these gold and silver anniversary celebrants, Shepherd has an extensive list of programs and organizations that enjoy a long history at the University: Commencement (138 years), NCATE accreditation (57), Emeritus Club (55), Athletic Hall of Fame (26), Contemporary American Theater Festival (21), Washington Gateway Academy (21), George Tyler Moore Center for the Study of the Civil War (18), and Appalachian Writer-in-Residence (13), to name a few. All of these programs started as innovative and creative ideas or solutions, proved to have staying power, and grew into traditions and points of pride for the University.

This fall semester, Shepherd University will return to our tradition of graduating students in four years. We’ve accomplished this recommitment to a four-year degree through the hard work of our faculty and the support of staff in the Registrar’s Office and Academic Affairs. After two years of heated discussion and long hours in the office, the eight-semester curriculum emerged with a newly organized General Studies Core, added approaches to 21st-century careers and challenges, and courses to orient students to the academic rigor of college study and the real-life demands of professional life. This redefinition of the curriculum creates a 120-credit hour baccalaureate degree that loses none of Shepherd’s academic challenge while focusing sharply on learning outcomes required by today’s student.

Every day we build new traditions at Shepherd as we seek to improve, innovate, and inspire. We welcome you back to campus to see these traditions in person, time-honored or just emerging.

Teacher education program reaccredited by NCATE

Shepherd University’s education program has been reaccredited by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE).

NCATE will continue its accreditation of Shepherd’s education program at the initial teacher preparation level and will grant accreditation for the advanced preparation level. Not only were all education standards fully met by Shepherd, but the unit accreditation board cited no areas for improvement for any of the standards.

“NCATE accreditation affirms Shepherd’s high standards for and commitment to teacher education,” said President Suzanne Shipley. “Shepherd has been preparing great teachers for 140 years. We are pleased that during our teacher education review, no areas for improvement were cited; this confirms the high quality of our curriculum, our education faculty members, and our students.”

Founded in 1954, the same year that Shepherd’s teacher education program was first accredited, NCATE’s mission is to help establish high quality teacher preparation through professional accreditation of schools, colleges, and departments of education. Through the accreditation process, NCATE expects teacher education candidates to be able to demonstrate the professional knowledge, skills, and dispositions necessary to help all students learn and expects the University to offer a coherent program of study that will prepare effective teachers.

Shepherd’s next NCATE accreditation visit will take place in the fall 2017.

SU named to community service Honor Roll

Shepherd University was named to the 2010 President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll with Distinction, joining 113 colleges and universities nationwide. This is the third year Shepherd has been named to the Honor Roll and the first year to the Honor Roll with Distinction.

The award, given by the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), honors institutions of higher education for their support of volunteering, service-learning, and civic engagement. More than 800 institutions applied for the Honor Roll, which

(continued to page 32)
A 120-credit hour bachelor’s degree launched through curricular reform

Shepherd University has reduced the amount of time students take to earn their baccalaureate degree in order to help students complete a degree in four years. Through curriculum reform in general studies and in the majors and minors, the number of credit hours required for a bachelor’s degree will decrease by eight credit hours, from 128 to 120, beginning this fall semester.

The national average for earning a bachelor’s degree is five years. Shepherd’s initiative is designed to help return the undergraduate degree-earning time to four years. Additionally, an innovative core curriculum will be implemented that includes a first-year experience course, a writing intensive course within the major, and a senior capstone course.

“This change broadens student access and success by making graduation in four years a greater possibility, thereby reducing the tuition costs for students and their families,” said President Suzanne Shipley. “These curricular changes will also make it easier for community college students to transfer to Shepherd and complete a degree within two years after transfer.”

All students entering Shepherd in the fall will be part of the 120-credit hour degree changes. Currently enrolled students will have the option of selecting the new curriculum or continuing under the course catalog in effect when they enrolled at Shepherd.

An academic advising assistance center has been established to aid students in the transition process. A web-based analysis tool is available to current students so they can compare the new program with the one in place when they originally enrolled.

“Without the hard work of our faculty members, we would not have successfully developed and implemented changes to the core curriculum,” said Dr. Richard Helldobler, vice president for academic affairs. “They carefully examined the curriculum and reworked it to reflect the competencies that students should have in the 21st century.”

The retooling of the academic core requirements will lessen Shepherd’s reliance on part-time faculty who teach general studies and in the majors and minors, the number of general studies and in the majors and minors, the number of
core curriculum, said President Suzanne Shipley.

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Outstanding faculty honored

Four Shepherd faculty members were awarded the Outstanding Faculty medals during the McMurran Scholars convocation on April 29. The awards were presented by Dean Laura Renninger and President Suzanne Shipley.

The 2011 winners were Dr. Rebecca Mercado, assistant professor of education, Outstanding Service Award; Dr. Joseph Robbins, assistant professor of political science, Outstanding Scholar Award; Dr. Gordon DeMeritt, department chair and associate professor of business administration, Outstanding Advisor Award; and Dr. Carol Plautz, assistant professor of biology, Outstanding Teacher Award.

Segar named VP for student affairs

Thomas C. Segar, of Hagerstown, Maryland, has been named vice president for student affairs at Shepherd University.

As vice president, Segar reports to President Suzanne Shipley and serves on her executive staff. Segar provides the leadership and vision for the Division of Student Affairs which includes the administration, operation, budget, and management of residence life, Student Center, dining services, student activities, commuter affairs, Greek affairs, conference services, health center, counseling center, multicultural student affairs, student community service, veterans affairs, and international students.

“Tom is a skilled communicator, leader, and listener who views our students as our most important constituency,” said President Shipley. “His familiarity with Shepherd’s students and programs as well as his mastery of the academic field of student development will serve him well as he leads Shepherd’s Division of Student Affairs.”

Segar had served as assistant vice president for student affairs and director of residence life at Shepherd. Previously he has held positions as a college administrator at Shepherd and at other institutions in the areas of residence life, multicultural affairs, and disability services.

Segar is currently a doctoral candidate in the Department of Counseling and Personnel Services at the University of Maryland. His dissertation explores the relationship between sociocultural discussions and social change behaviors among college students. He earned his master of science degree in counseling with a specialization in college student personnel from Shippensburg University and his bachelor of science degree in psychology and a certificate in African American studies from the University of Maryland.

Watson named dean of libraries

Ann Watson, of Granville, Ohio, is the new dean of the Scarborough Library. Watson comes to Shepherd having most recently served as the library director at Ohio University, Lancaster since fall 2008.

While at Ohio University, she was responsible for the integration of technology through participation in the campus library system and oversaw a $1.8 million dollar renovation project. Watson previously served as head of access services, head of instruction, and instruction coordinator at Denison University from 1997 until September 2008.

Watson holds a bachelor of arts degree in history from West Virginia University, a master of science degree in library science in library and information science from Kent State University, and a master of arts degree in education from Ohio State University. She is a member of the American Library Association and the Academic Library Association of Ohio.
Ron Rash to receive the Appalachian Heritage Writer’s Award

The Shepherd University Foundation, the Appalachian Studies Program, and the West Virginia Humanities Council will present the 2011 Appalachian Heritage Writer’s Award to Carolina poet and fiction writer Ron Rash. Rash will serve as 2011 Appalachian Heritage Writer-in-Residence, participating in a variety of programs including selecting the winners of the West Virginia Fiction Competition and serving as editorial advisor to the Anthology of Appalachian Writers, Ron Rash Volume IV.

Born in 1953 in South Carolina, Rash spent his early years in Chester, where his parents worked in the Eureka Textile Mill and his father finished school to become a high school teacher. When Rash was eight years old, the family moved back to the mountains of western North Carolina, where the Rash family had lived since the 1700s. There Rash’s father began teaching at Gardner-Webb University in Boiling Springs, which Rash also attended as an undergraduate. Rash’s mother became a teacher as well, working in the public schools.

Rash’s formative years were spent in the bucolic settings reflected in his poetry and stories. He has confessed to interviewer Jack Shuler, “I don’t like living in cities.” Paramount in Rash’s work is a respect for the land, and, like many Appalachian writers, Rash tackles the thorny environmental issues that have plagued the region. Also influential on Rash was his Southern Baptist background. Rash’s work is rich with religious and biblical imagery, yet it is also reflective of the pagan myth and spirituality that are part of his Celtic roots. Rash’s characters and stories are a product of the unique place of his formative years, and the voices of those characters are inseparable from his Appalachian heritage.

After graduation from Gardner-Webb, Rash attended graduate school at Clemson University, publishing his first collection of short stories in 1994, The Night the New Jesus Fell to Earth. Rash has since published a number of award-winning books, including collections of poetry such as Eureka Mill (1998), Among the Believers (2000), and Raising the Dead (2002). His novels include One Foot in Eden (2002), Saints at the River (2004), The World Made Straight (2006), and Serena (2008). Rash’s other story collections include Casualties (2000), Chemistry and Other Stories (2007), and his latest collection Burning Bright (2010).

The quality and depth of Rash’s work has placed him into a select group of American and Appalachian writers that includes Fred Chappell, Denise Giardina, Robert Morgan, and Lee Smith. His work is richly reflective of the cultural traditions of the region but laden and prescient with contemporary issues and ideas that transcend the region. Among Rash’s awards are the Sherwood Anderson Prize (1996), Appalachian Book of the Year for One Foot in Eden (2002), Southern Book Critics Circle Award for Saints at the River (2004), O. Henry Prize (2005), and a Pen/Faulkner Finalist (2009) for Serena. Ron Rash currently holds the John Parris Chair in Appalachian Studies at Western Carolina University and was most recently awarded the Frank O’Connor International Short Story Prize for “Burning Bright.”

Appalachian Writer Residency Events

Monday, September 26-October 14: Anthology of Appalachian Writers Volume III Photographic Art Exhibit, Scarborough Reading Room, Shepherd University. AHWIR website at www.shepherd.edu/ahwinweb.

Monday, September 26: Screening of film “Appalachia: Power and Place,” 7 p.m., Reynolds Hall. Discussion leader will be Dr. Jerry Thomas, professor emeritus of history. The event is sponsored by the Shepherdstown Film Society (website at www.shepherdstownfilmsociety.org).

Tuesday, September 27: “A Celebration of Appalachian Storytellers: A Carolina Muse” and the Anthology of Appalachian Writers and Photographers, 7 p.m., Robert C. Byrd Center for Legislative Studies, sponsored by the West Virginia Center for the Book. Reception and book signing at 8 p.m. in Scarborough Reading Room.

Wednesday, September 28: 1.) Visit with Martinsburg, Jefferson, and Berkeley Springs students at Martinsburg High School, 9 a.m.; 2.) Reading at Martinsburg Public Library and Reception, 10:30 a.m.; 3.) “The Writing Life, with Ron Rash,” Robert C. Byrd Center for Legislative Studies, 7 p.m. The writer will discuss his work, the writing process, and his journey toward authorship and publication.

Thursday, September 29: 1.) Writers Master Class, 3-4:30 p.m., Byrd Center; 2.) Scarborough Society Lecture and Awards Ceremony, 8 p.m., Erma Ora Byrd Hall. Ron Rash will receive the Appalachian Heritage Writer’s Award and present his keynote address, followed by a reception and book signing. The West Virginia Fiction Competition awards will also be presented by Ron Rash.

Friday, September 30: Appalachian Heritage Festival Concert Evening Reading of Award-Winning Work of Fiction, West Virginia Fiction Competition, at 16th Annual Appalachian Heritage Festival Concert, 8 p.m., Frank Center Theater.

Saturday, October 1: Appalachian Heritage Festival at various venues throughout Shepherdstown during the day and evening festival concert at 8 p.m., Frank Center Theater; website at www.shepherd.edu/passweb/festival.htm.

Shepherd Today

Ron Rash

Sylvia Bailey Shurbutt
Financial planning students can qualify for CFP® certification

Shepherd University’s major in business administration with a concentration in financial planning was recently approved by the Certified Financial Planner Board of Standards, Inc. Students who successfully complete the program will have met the prerequisite education requirement that allows them to apply for the CFP® certification exam. According to Dr. Gordon DeMeritt, chair of the business administration department, Shepherd students could graduate with the degree as early as December 2011.

The program is supported by local professional financial advisors who are members of the Rural Financial Planning Project (RFPP), which was launched by Rob Hoxton, CFP®, of Hoxton Financial in Shepherdstown. The mission of the RFPP is to improve the lives of rural Americans through the promotion of financial literacy and the delivery of financial planning by well-trained and ethical financial planning professionals.

Hoxton said that financial literacy starts with education and promoting the CFP® career path. “Many Americans, especially in rural sections of the country, need help with financial literacy in areas such as understanding retirement savings and mortgage obligations,” he said. “The Rural Financial Planning Project offers assistance to those willing to help their communities in providing this financial guidance.”

The RFPP will provide tuition assistance through scholarships and professional mentorship for financial planning students at Shepherd as well as internships.

“It’s important as academics to know what the professional world requires,” said DeMeritt. “The RFPP will help the department stay current along with providing the students with internship opportunities.”

Monica Lingenfelter, executive vice president of the Shepherd University Foundation, said that this project is a great example of how Shepherd students and faculty can be inspired and supported by an advisory group of alumni and friends.

“The Rural Financial Planning Project advisory board brings together a dynamic group of professionals to mentor our CFP® students. With the Foundation’s organizational support and Dr. Gordon DeMeritt leading the business faculty, the RFPP board is providing significant scholarship support, funding for faculty development, mentoring, and internships right out of the gate,” Lingenfelter said. “All of this translates to outstanding career opportunities for our graduates in a highly respected and lucrative profession.”

The Shepherd University Foundation has received and is accepting gifts for scholarships for Shepherd CFP® students during the fall 2011 semester. For more information about this scholarship, contact Monica Lingenfelter at 304-876-5397 or e-mail mlingen@shepherd.edu. Visit Shepherd’s online catalog for details about the financial planning concentration, http://catalog.shepherd.edu/.

Alumni talk about financial planning as a career

Julia M. Connell ’84, CFP®, MBA, MSFP, Charles Town

“I am thrilled that Shepherd is offering a concentration as it will help promote the career path in general. More importantly, it will serve to increase the number of CFP® professionals available to rural Americans and will allow students to make an important difference in their hometowns.”

Jennifer Peterson ’07, Shepherdstown

“I think this is the greatest job in the world. I help people on a daily basis by putting into action a plan that will help them attain their financial goals. I believe that I really make a difference in the lives of my clients and take pride in doing so.

“I am passionate about educating our younger generations on the value of saving and the benefits of starting at an early age.

“It’s very exciting that Shepherd is offering a concentration in financial planning that will allow students to sit for the CFP® exam. I think it will encourage more students to attend Shepherd University and pursue a career in the financial services industry. Our community will also benefit by gaining access to well-educated financial professionals who help to improve the lives of the individuals and businesses they come in contact with.”

John Wolff ’88, Hamilton, Virginia

“When I entered the financial services industry in 1988, financial planning was a relatively new way of delivering advice and services. For decades prior, and to some extent today, financial planning was product-driven mainly through financial institutions such as banks, brokerage houses, and insurance companies. Today, financial planning is focused on process and many planners have migrated to a fee-only model versus a model that pays the planner for ‘selling’ products and services. Serving individuals, families, and institutions with their investment and financial planning requirements is very rewarding. In this industry, an advisor essentially is paid to HELP clients ACHIEVE their unique goals and objectives. Everyday there is news, capital market movements, economic data, and both qualitative and quantitative data to understand, evaluate, and distill to assist clients in making good decisions about their financial assets. It’s very rewarding.

“When Rob Hoxton called me to describe this initiative, I signed on immediately—both with time and money. Personally, I am very excited for Shepherd, my alma mater, the certified financial planner (CFP®) program and industry, and current and future students. Our country and society deserve financial literacy, families and institutions need qualified financial planners, and what better way to start than during the formal educational stage to begin ‘producing’ certified financial planners.”

Fall 2011
Hans Fogle ’05 puts community ties, degree to work in radio

HANS FOGLE ’05 has used his voice to make an impression on the Eastern Panhandle since graduating from Shepherd. His degree in mass communications and minor in journalism have landed him where he is today, as the host of Panhandle Live on WEPM radio in Martinsburg.

After graduating from Shepherd, the Martinsburg native worked part-time as a board operator at WRNR in Martinsburg before taking a full-time position at WQWV in Petersburg, where he was the morning show host for two years.

The opportunity to return to Martinsburg occurred around the same time that he proposed to his wife, Dana Fogle, who is an accountant at CoxHollidaPrice, LLP in Martinsburg.

“News was not on my radar, but that’s what the opening was, so I wound up doing it and enjoying it,” Hans said. “I became the news director at WEPM and then in December 2008 took over hosting Panhandle Live which has been a lot of fun. Challenging, but fun.”

Hans said that hosting a talk show has been an interesting experience. “Usually you just host the show. For this, I have to schedule, book, produce, and interview—all of it. It’s been a big challenge. One of the hardest parts of local radio is that it has to serve many functions and cover local news and local politics,” he said. “We also have to have a community service component. If the show didn’t feature local events, I don’t think it would be serving its purpose.”

Radio was not always part of his plan. When Hans transferred to Shepherd from Gettysburg College in the spring of 2002, he needed three additional credits in order to remain on his parents’ health insurance. He took a radio practicum to fill out his schedule and ended up taking it every semester he could after that. An undeclared major when he enrolled, Hans selected communications and journalism after getting involved with campus radio station WSHC-FM.

Hans and JESSICA CAMPBELL FISHER ’05 hosted the Jessie and Hans Super Fun Happy Hour, a pop-music/Hollywood gossip radio show, during their time at Shepherd. As a student, Hans interned at WEPM in 2002 and then with The Greaseman in 2004.

According to Hans, his time at Shepherd helped prepare him for his radio career. “The mass communications program at Shepherd is broad so you get a little bit of everything,” he said. “I think a lot of people latched on to one particular segment. For me it was radio. Some folks latch on to the video and really go after it. But I think the program, while giving you a little of everything, offers enough to narrow your focus. Whether you want to focus on radio, video, or news, the opportunity is there. The experience and knowledge are there from the professors so that you can hone your skills in a particular area.”

Hans said he felt well prepared when entering the job field, especially in the sound design area. “[Associate professor of communications] Kevin Williams did a great job getting people prepared for that,” Hans said. “That means my production and commercials have always been easy for me coming into the professional field. The biggest challenge is learning the difference between commercial radio and college radio.”

Hans said there is an advantage to working in your hometown. “They know you, they know your family. You’ve got that going for you,” Hans said. “But at Shepherd, the opportunity to interact with your professors, I think, prepares you to interact with people on a professional level. When talking to a senator or a delegate or the head of a company or even someone organizing a fundraiser, you need to have a certain level of respect and rapport. I think interacting with your professors teaches you how to appropriately interact with people in a professional setting.”

Hans said that since he’s returned to WEPM, he has been able to ask his former professors for advice and work with them outside of a student-teacher relationship. “It’s been pretty neat and handy,” he said.

Currently there are five Shepherd graduates or students working at WEPM in Martinsburg, and Hans said that the station is always looking for more.

“When you’re in school and working at the college radio station, you learn and get experience, and eventually the doors open,” Hans said. “It’s like they tell you in class at Shepherd: it’s networking and being in the right place at the right time and things either work out or they don’t. That’s why you get the degree, so you have something to fall back on.”

Hans said his advice to current students is to take full advantage of their professors and get involved in the community. “You never know who you’re going to run into, what club you’ll get involved with, or what charity may end up providing an opportunity that may get you an offer to work with someone. That makes it a much smoother transition,” he said.

“I’ve always said that if I can retire from here I will. It depends on where radio goes. I’d like to stay in the communications field. I feel like I have a good rapport with the people I work with; I like being in this community. Whatever ends up happening, I’d like to stay in the Eastern Panhandle if at all possible. And if WEPM radio works out for that—fantastic.” —Jillian Kesner
Firefighter Joe Brown ’08 is an environmental entrepreneur

Joe Brown ’08, owner of Patriot Land and Wildlife Management Services, Inc., came to Shepherd in 2001 after he was recruited from his Poolesville, Maryland, high school to play football. He played four seasons with the Rams as an outside linebacker and studied environmental studies and resource management.

Joe chose Shepherd because the University offered the degree he wanted to pursue and it was near his family and hometown. He lived for three years during his time at Shepherd at the Sharpsburg Volunteer Fire Department, where he volunteered in the evenings and on weekends. His studies at Shepherd were put on hold twice—once in November 2004 after the his childhood best friend was killed in the line of duty in Iraq and again the following spring when he was offered a position with the District of Columbia Fire Department. With 12 credits remaining, Joe accepted the position and took classes part-time, finishing his degree in 2008.

Patriot Land and Wildlife Management began in 2005 when Joe was looking for an internship for his degree. “I knew what I wanted to do, but I couldn’t find a company that did all the things I was interested in,” he said. “The degree path I took at Shepherd gave me a little taste of everything—forestry, soil science, lakes and rivers. I decided I wanted to do a little of everything. There wasn’t a company that could handle everything a client would need when it came to land, water, or wildlife, so that’s why I started the company.”

His company started from humble beginnings, Joe said. “The first year or two were slow; it was just an idea,” he said. “I worked 12-14 hour days all the time.”

The company started as a property management firm, managing private farming acreage in Montgomery County, Maryland, with the principal purpose of helping older farmers and landowners who still loved their farms but were unable to continue farming. “We wanted to be one of those companies that helps them keep the farm going and didn’t want to see them lose it,” Joe said. “From there we started managing recreational hunting leases. We saw a need for all these other services and started to expand into what we are doing now.”

Patriot Land and Wildlife Management now employs from three to 10 employees through the year, depending on the season. Clients range from private landowners and investment firms to local, state, and federal governments as well as nonprofit agencies and land trusts.

“We have a lot of services we can offer,” Joe said. “Many people say we do too much and we need to concentrate on one thing. What we’ve found is that we are more than capable of doing each of the things that we do and doing them well. When a client brings us in, it may be because they’ve heard of our wildlife management skills. We may get in there and other issues may come up.”

His client base has grown by word of mouth. “It’s taken these six years to get the reputation we have, which is finishing jobs that we start. We try to do those extra things that set us apart from other companies,” he said.

Joe said that he has been working with the creators of BioHaven Floating Islands to turn them into the best management process and see how they benefit water treatment and how they will impact the future of ecological restoration. “Hopefully we are in on the ground floor of that,” he said. Last summer, a 250-square-foot BioHaven Floating Island, which controls algae and other growth in storm water management ponds and other bodies of water, was installed in Baltimore’s Inner Harbor by Patriot Land and Wildlife Management in partnership with the National Aquarium in Baltimore, the Baltimore Waterfront Partnership, and Blue Wing Environmental Solutions and Technologies.

“They’re seeing a lot of big results and hopefully that will lead to some solutions in restoring the Chesapeake Bay through the different tributaries,” Joe said.

Joe also is working on a research project with the University of Maryland which focuses on storm water management ponds for poultry farms on Maryland’s Eastern Shore and nutrient management within those ponds.

“The company is full service—land, water, and wildlife—pretty much anything that a client would need, from reforestation and wetlands mitigation,” he said. “By being a young company, we aren’t tied to what’s been the standard practice for the past 20 years. We’re out there looking for new, innovative technologies.”

Joe also owns a subsidiary of Patriot Land and Wildlife Management called Patriot LWM Outdoors, which he says is mainly a marketing tool for services and products related specifically to outdoors recreation and hunting. Patriot manages just over 5,000 acres in Montgomery and Frederick counties in Maryland.

The first company Joe started in 2004, Black Dog Guide Services, which he co-owns, specializes in waterfowl outfitting service based in Montgomery County. Clients include current and former professional athletes, and the outfitter works to provide

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Nursing alumnae give back to community through Free Clinic

Leona Cooke ’92 and ’97 and Michele Goldman ’92 were recognized in May as distinguished nursing alumnae during the 2011 nursing convocation at Shepherd University for their work in founding in 2001 and running the Eastern Panhandle Free Clinic (EPFC).

Michele, executive director of the EPFC for the past five years, gave the convocation address to the nursing graduates. She earned her associate’s degree in nursing from Shepherd in 1992 and her bachelor’s degree in nursing from Virginia Commonwealth University in 1997.

Leona, a nurse practitioner at EPFC, received her associate’s degree in nursing from Shepherd in 1992, her bachelor’s degree in nursing from Shepherd in 1997, and her master’s degree and nurse practitioner degree from West Virginia University in 1999.

After finishing her master’s program, Leona began looking for a job and saw the need for a free clinic in the area. “People weren’t taking their prescriptions and were cutting their pills in half because they couldn’t afford their medication,” she said.

While researching free clinics and meeting with contacts at Jefferson Memorial Hospital, she ran into Michele, who at the time was working for the Right from the Start program at the hospital. Cooke and Goldman, who initially met in 1989 while at Shepherd, hadn’t seen each other since graduating in 1992.

Through her work with Right from the Start, Michele also recognized the need for a free clinic and began to visit other free clinics throughout the state. She set up a board of directors in order to receive nonprofit status so she could begin raising money for the clinic.

A few months after the free clinic opened its doors, Sue Pelish, who was the director of United Way of Jefferson County, contacted Leona about a grant application for a Local Initiative Funding Partners Grant through the Robert Woods Johnson Foundation that she thought the clinic could benefit from.

The EPFC was among 20 organizations out of 298 applicants nationwide that received a $400,000 four-year matching grant, which lasted the free clinic for five years and helped the former classmates get the clinic up and running.

Leona, who was the initial executive director of the clinic from 2001-02, said the clinic started with no money, just a leap of faith. Now, the clinic operates on a $900,000 budget. The clinic is open more than 40 hours a week, has 10,000 visits a year, and sees 2,000 regular patients each year. Currently, the clinic employs 14 paid staff and has more than 200 unpaid volunteers who help with fundraising and clerical tasks.

The EPFC is a site that trains Shepherd students who are studying nursing and social work, as well as pharmacy and nursing students from other regional schools. More than 200 nursing, social work, and pharmacy students receive training there each year.

The clinic provides family planning services, a chronic disease management program, primary care, massage therapy, mental health services, Weight Watchers, diabetes education classes, nutrition, and a charitable pharmacy that gave out 48,000 prescriptions last year, totaling $4.9 million in pharmaceuticals.

The EPFC serves patients not just in the three counties in the Eastern Panhandle, but also in Grant, Hardy, Hampshire, and Mineral counties.

The clinic is a member of the West Virginia Association of Free Clinics, of which Michele is in her second term as secretary. One of 10 free clinics across the state, the EPFC was recognized by the Wise Women Program as the top screening provider in West Virginia. The Wise Women program specializes in screening and diagnosing cardiovascular diseases.

In 1991, Michele’s associate’s degree class helped organize the first B.S.N. convocation at Shepherd. Two decades later, Michele and Leona were recognized as distinguished nursing alumnae for their involvement in founding the EPFC and were presented a $500 gift for the EPFC during this year’s nursing convocation.

“Twenty years ago I was part of the associate’s nursing program helping out with graduation—it was interesting being here 20 years later as a speaker,” Michele said. “It was really an honor to talk to the graduating class.”

Jillian Kesner

Pictured (l. to r.) are nursing alumnae honorees Leona Cooke ’92 and ’97 and Michele Goldman ’92; Dr. Sharon Mailey, chair of the Department of Nursing Education; Lisa Welch, who nominated Leona and Michele for the award; and President Suzanne Shipley.
Nicholas Redding ’08 works with CW Trust to save battlefields

During his senior year at Shepherd, history major Nicholas Redding ’08 participated in the Washington Gateway Semester and received a job offer from Civil War Trust halfway through his internship with the organization to work as a real estate associate.

A year later, the Buffalo, New York, native took a job with the policy side of the organization, serving as a state and local liaison between the trust and state and local politicians as well as grassroots activists. Recently, Nicholas was promoted to the deputy director for advocacy for the Civil War Trust.

At the trust, Nicholas serves as a liaison between state and local agencies, working to raise awareness about saving Civil War battlefield land. He also contributes articles to the Civil War Trust’s magazine and other publications.

The Washington, D.C.-based Civil War Trust, which began in 1987, has worked to save and preserve more than 30,000 acres of battlefield land at 110 battlefields in 20 states across the United States. The trust works to save land and to be an advocate for battlefields.

“We speak out for the fallen,” Nicholas said. “We are strong advocates for battlefields when they can’t help themselves.”

In October 2010, the Civil War Trust took an active role in saving a 49-acre portion of the Wilderness Battlefield in Orange County, Virginia, which was to be the site of a Walmart store. And recently, Nicholas assisted with an 18-month fight to prevent a casino from being built less than a mile from Gettysburg.

“We engage in grassroots efforts and work with local residents, giving them support and advice to get them started in the right direction,” Nicholas said. Another aspect of the trust’s mission is education, and it provides institutes for teachers so they are well-versed in Civil War history.

Nicholas was always interested in Civil War history, but his interest grew when he learned about his great-grandmother’s grandfather, who was a bounty jumper during the Civil War.

While at Shepherd, Nicholas worked as a seasonal park ranger at the C&O Canal following his freshman year and worked as a seasonal park ranger at Gettysburg during the summers that followed. During the school year, he had a work-study position with Shepherd’s George Tyler Moore Center for the Study of the Civil War.

Nicholas said that Dr. Mark Snell, director of the Center for the Study of the Civil War, made an impression on him while he was a student. “He had the biggest impact by trying to help me figure out a way to do something practical with a degree in Civil War history,” Nicholas said. “It’s sort of a niche area.”

Nicholas said it was working for the National Park Service that helped him hone his skills as a historian, and that he learned by doing when it came to working with grassroots endeavors at the Civil War Trust.

He has written a book, which he hopes to release in 2012 to coincide with the 150th anniversary of the Civil War. The 85-page book will serve as a step-by-step guide to Civil War Shepherdstown and Antietam and give readers a perspective they may not otherwise know existed.

“The sesquicentennial is a huge opportunity to raise awareness about battlefield preservation,” he said. “There will be a lot of interest in the Civil War, and battlefields will experience an increase in visitation. It’s only going to grow stronger.”

In June, he spoke at the Civil War symposium sponsored by the George Tyler Moore Center where he talked about Civil War Shepherdstown.

Nicholas is married to Sarah Mihailoff ’07, whom he met at Shepherd. The couple resides in Jefferson, Maryland.

“There is often little we as individuals can do that has real, lasting permanence, but the exciting thing about working for the Civil War Trust is that the work we do, preserving land, is permanent—it’s a lasting legacy. That’s something some people search for all their lives, and I’m fortunate enough to work on it daily.”

Brown is environmental entrepreneur

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free recreational opportunities to injured soldiers and Marines from the Walter Reed Medical Center through Project Second Chance.

He still keeps in touch with Shepherd professor Dr. Peter Vila. Joe said he loved learning from him. “He’s been a good resource for me to just check in with him and let him know about what we’re doing,” he said.

Because of his ties to Shepherd and a desire to see students afforded the opportunity to find a variety of internships, Joe has recently been working with faculty members to partner with the environmental studies department to provide internships.

Since graduating from Shepherd, Joe has continued to serve with Company 17 for the D.C. Fire Company and is also a captain for Kentland Volunteer Fire Department in Landover, Maryland. He continues to play football and serves as the general manager for the D.C. Generals, a professional police and fire charity football team. The team plays five games a year with teams from other major cities. All the money raised goes to select charities.

“It’s unique because the competition level is really high, and it’s a way to give back to the community,” he said.
Jeff Hedges, of Marshall, Virginia, has been named senior vice president, sales for CBS Radio, arranging large multi-market advertiser deals across the 27 major and medium CBS markets and the more than 130 radio stations owned and operated by CBS. Jeff joined CBS in 1997 and has served in various capacities including a two-year stint at WNEW in New York, then as vice president and director of sales for the five CBS stations and Redskins Radio in Washington, D.C.

Prior to joining CBS, Jeff had been vice president and station manager at DC101 for 15 years. His Washington career began in 1975 as general sales manager for the NBC-owned and -operated radio stations there. Before going to Washington, Jeff spent several years teaching at Martinsburg North Junior High, and then moved to WEEO in Waynesboro, Pennsylvania, as a salesman and later as sales manager.

Jeff was a speech and drama major and English minor at Shepherd and a member of Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity. During his four years at Shepherd, he worked his way through school as a DJ, first at WPEM in Martinsburg and later at WXVA in Charles Town. Remarking on the school motto “Shepherd Students Succeed,” Jeff said, “I received my first break at NBC in major market sales management only 19 months after teaching in Martinsburg. That is a true Cinderella story if ever there was one, and without the education and confidence instilled in me while at Shepherd, I might not have succeeded.”

Jeff and his wife, Jamie, reside on their thoroughbred horse farm in Virginia.

Jerry Kerr, of Winchester, Virginia, was honored as the Top of Virginia Regional Chamber Citizen of the Year. Jerry has been a Chamber member for nearly four decades—largely as a principal in the local accounting firm Yount, Hyde, and Barbour. He has been involved in the Red Cross, Winchester Kiwanis, the United Way of Northern Shenandoah Valley, Celebrating Patsy Cline, and Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church and the National Lutheran Home for the Aged.

Dr. Mike Teets, of Kingwood, retired from the Preston County Board of Education on January 1. Mike served 40 years in Preston County in a range of positions, including teacher, coach, principal, and assistant superintendent.

Dr. Mary J.C. Hendrix, of Lake Forest, Illinois, is the president, scientific director, and Medical Research Institute Council Professor at Children’s Memorial Research Center at Northwestern University’s Feinberg School of Medicine. She has been president of the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology. She continues to serve on the National Cancer Institute Board of Scientific Advisors and the boards for the Annenberg Center for Health Sciences, Research America, and the Chicago Council on Science and Technology. Mary’s laboratory works to identify genes that contribute to cancer metastasis and related diseases exhibiting similar biological activities. She received a Ph.D. in anatomy from George Washington University in 1977 and was awarded an honorary doctorate in science in 1996 from Shepherd.

Mary Ellen Waltemire, of Hagerstown, Maryland, retired on January 1 after 35 years with University of Maryland Extension. She began her career as a 4-H educator and worked in the Washington County office from 1976 to 2003. She worked out of the regional office at the Western Maryland Research and Education Center in Keedysville from 2003 until her retirement as one of two regional directors in Maryland. Her husband, Chuck Waltemire ’75, whom she married in 1978, retired at the same time.

Perry Baker, of Jefferson, Maryland, was promoted by the Frederick County (Maryland) Public Schools to serve as supervisor of athletics and extracurricular activities. Perry received a master’s in physical education in 1989 and earned his certificate in administration and supervision in 1992 from McDaniel College, formerly Western Maryland. His career with Frederick County Schools began in 1982 when he became a teacher, coach, and athletic director at Linganore High School. He then moved to Urbana High School and Heather Ridge School as assistant principal. Before becoming acting supervisor, Perry was a teacher and athletic director at Brunswick High School. He was named in 1996 and again in 2009 as the Maryland State District I Athletic Director of the Year.

Chris Fletcher, of Mechanicsville, Virginia, has been named the director of PINPOINT Resource Group, Virginia Operations. He had been director of consulting services for PLANIT Technology Group.

Donald Parsons, Jr. has joined Community Bank of Tri-County as vice president and senior commercial lender for Calvert County, Maryland. Donald brings with him more than 15 years of banking experience, serving as a senior vice president and senior loan officer with Mercantile Southern Maryland Bank and its predecessor, Calvert Bank and Trust. He received a master of business administration from the Sellinger School of Business at Loyola College.

Dr. Mark McCoy is the dean of the School of Music at DePauw University in Greencastle, Indiana. Mark had served as chair of Shepherd’s Department of Music for...
15 years. During a special concert on May 2 featuring works that he had composed and written while at Shepherd, Mark was honored by having the rehearsal hall in the Frank Center named in his honor.

During his time at Shepherd, Mark conducted the wind ensemble and orchestra and the Two Rivers Chamber Orchestra, served as the artistic director for the Friends of Music Concert Series, and was founder and CEO of MusicFirst Festivals. Mark was instrumental in bringing world-renowned performances to the region including appearances by the Vienna Boys Choir and the Canadian Brass Quintet. He also led the successful Year of the Piano in 2004 that brought the esteemed guitarists including Roland Dyens, Eduardo Isaac, Ricardo Cobo, Angel Romero, and Sharon Isbin. In addition to performing, Candice has served as an instructor for Shenandoah Conservatory, Mount Saint Mary’s University, Shepherd University, Hagerstown Community College, and Frederick Community College.

'88
Rev. Philip Curran, of Walkersville, Maryland, was installed as pastor of Glade United Church of Christ. He was ordained into the Christian ministry in 1991 at First Christian Church in Hagerstown. He has served as a pastor in Illinois, Missouri, and Kentucky before returning home to Maryland.

'93
Alyssa Tavernia, principal and creative director of Imperium Creative Group, graduated from Norwich University with a master’s in military history in 2008. She recently graduated from the United States Army Basic Combat Training and the U.S. Army Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear School in Ft. Leonard Wood, Missouri, on December 3, 2010. Alyssa, formerly a Shepherd women’s basketball team member and later a pro downhill mountain bike racer, is currently serving in the U.S. Army National Guard as a CBRN specialist. She also works in a volunteer capacity at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in museum services as a guide and educator. Alyssa’s Imperium Creative Group is a design organization that specializes in history-related design for corporate and non-profit clients.

'94
Amanda M. Stevens has been appointed principal of Marlowe Elementary in Berkeley County. Amanda taught Project MOVE preschool and fourth grade at Back Creek Elementary and Mill Creek Intermediate, and also served as Potomack Intermediate’s assistant principal for seven years. She has worked with Berkeley County Schools for 17 years.

'95
Rebekah Eyler began working as Martinsburg North Middle’s interim principal in January, and has recently been approved as principal. Rebekah has devoted 16 years to Berkeley County Schools. She taught fifth grade at Marlowe Elementary and Potomack Intermediate and reading at Hedgesville Middle. She also has served at Hedgesville Middle and Spring Mills Middle as an assistant principal.

'97
Elizabeth A. Jones, senior accountant at Decker & Co. PLLC, has successfully completed the QuickBooks Certifications Course. The certification demonstrates that Elizabeth has the knowledge, education, and experience to understand and explain Intuit’s financial software accounting software used by small businesses.

'99
Active as both a solo artist and chamber musician, guitarist Candice Mowbray, of Hagerstown, Maryland, has appeared as a guest performer and lecturer at many concert series including the Bethlehem Guitar Festival, the Ibero-American Guitar Festival, and the Maryland Symphony Orchestra Recital Series. She is currently pursuing a doctorate of musical arts degree and earned a master of music degree in classical guitar performance from Shenandoah Conservatory in Virginia.

'00
Norie Noll-DeHaven, of Martinsburg, is the assistant principal at Daniel Morgan Middle School in Virginia. Norie had served as the lead teacher at the middle school for two years. Her prior experience includes a year as a consultative teacher at Garland R. Quarles Elementary School and five years as a teacher at Virginia Avenue-Charlotte DeHart Elementary School. She has a master’s degree in education administration from Shenandoah University.

'03
Debra Ann Timbrook received an M.Ed. degree in educational leadership from Edinboro University, Pennsylvania, on May 7.

'04
Angela Holsinger ’04 and ’07, of Maugansville, Maryland, is the music teacher at Driwood Elementary School in Jefferson County.

Homecoming party slated for October 22
Shepherd alumni and friends are invited to the Third Annual Homecoming Post-Game Party hosted by the Alumni Association after the Shepherd vs. West Virginia State Homecoming game on October 22. Location and event details are being finalized, but check shepconnect.shepherd.edu starting September 1 for updated Homecoming information.
Weddings and Engagements

Tammy Fitch ’92 married Christopher Borger on February 25 in Frederick, Maryland.

Amy Murray ’02 and Josh Miller ’07 were married on October 9, 2010 in Hagerstown, Maryland. The wedding party included Andy Murray ’10, brother of the bride. The couple honeymooned in Aruba. Amy works as a planning and analysis specialist for State Farm Insurance. Josh is a case analyst for ManTech. They reside in Hagerstown.

Katie Higgins ’07 married Ross Kuhn on October 2, 2010 in Warrenton, Virginia. Betsy Higgins ’13, sister of the bride, served as maid of honor and bridesmaids included Amanda Allen ’06, Ashley Lady ’07, and Holly Snyder ’08. The couple resides in Centreville, Virginia.

Keith Henry ’09 married Samantha Utterback ’09 on July 17, 2010 in Shepherdstown. Janica DeLauney ’09 served as the maid of honor. Rachel Brown ’06 was a bridesmaid. In attendance were Shepherd professors Dr. Linda Kinney, associate professor of economics, and Dr. Dawne Raines Burke ’95, associate professor of education. After a honeymoon in Williamsburg, Jamestown, and Virginia Beach, Virginia, the couple resides in Summit Point.


Michelle Nicole Fravel ’06 is engaged to marry to Christopher Michael Files ’06. Michelle is employed as a CPA by Smith Elliott Kearns & Company, LLC. Chris is employed by Tractor Supply Distribution Center.

Lauren McKee ’06 and Travis Bays ’08 are engaged to be married October 15, in Shepherdstown.

Get connected through ShepConnect

There has never been a better time for alumni to get connected! Visit ShepConnect today to renew your membership to the Shepherd University Alumni Association (SUAA) and take advantage of the exciting changes and opportunities the Association is offering this year: including new additions to our member benefits, the new exclusive SUAA logo, and a new SUAA member card that alumni can show with pride.

Being a member of the SUAA is a way for you to have an impact on Shepherd. Your dues help support great traditions such as Homecoming, Athletic Hall of Fame, and Emeritus Club while enriching the experience of today's students and tomorrow's alumni. A strong Alumni Association helps all alumni maintain that special connection they have with Shepherd even when they're away from campus. Through its programs and activities, the SUAA is committed to connecting all alumni to Shepherd and to each other.

For a complete list of member benefits, information on events and programs, to reconnect with old friends, and for volunteer opportunities, please visit shepconnect.shepherd.edu. If you have not already registered, please contact the Office of Alumni Relations, 304-876-5157 to receive your constituent ID.

New Arrivals

Amy Agro Wangdahl ’94 and husband Mike, a daughter, Madeleine Grace, born August 5, 2010. She weighed 8 lbs. 2 oz. Maddie joins big brothers Nathan, 6, and Jacob, 3.


Victor C Knott III ’99 and wife Brent Elizabeth, a daughter, Emerson Mazie, born March 3. Emerson joins big sister Hayden and big brother Liam.

Peter Frisbie ’00 and Nicole Noland Frisbie ’02, a son, Brendan Michael, born on January 28.

Janelle Creek Cataldo ’01 and Rick Cataldo ’00, a daughter, Cadence Lynn, born April 28, 2010. She joins big sisters Rylie, 5, and Reagan, 4, and big brother Tre, 2.

Sara Moore ’04 and husband Ezekiel Holt ’08, a daughter, Emerson Louise, born April 2.

Jeffrey Hartman ’05 and Nicole Morgan Hartman ’05, a daughter, Savannah Marie, born January 11. She joins big brother Will.

Danielle Bennett ’06 and husband Blake, a daughter, Kennedi Grace, born April 15, 2010. She weighed 7 lbs. 1 oz. and was 19 inches long. The family resides in Martinsburg.

Alexis "Lexi" Reed ’06 and husband Byron, a son, Noah Daniel, born March 16. Lexi is the director of alumni relations at Shepherd University.
Obituaries

Ruby Lorraine Teets ’32, of Kingwood, died October 5, 2011. She was an elementary teacher in Tunnelton and was the postmaster of Arferville.

Frank Lee Whitacre ’37, of Cross Junction, Virginia, died April 28, 2010. He was a retired principal and teacher with the Frederick County School System, having served for 35 years. He was a veteran of the United States Navy during World War II, having served with the Signal Corps in the Caribbean, achieving the rank of lieutenant.

Lige B. Miller ’38, of Kearneysville, died June 26, 2011. He taught elementary school in Jefferson County and operated a farm. While at Shepherd, he played baseball.

Nellene Isabel (Staub) Legg ’43, of Inwood, died recently. She was a direct descendant of Colonel Morgan Morgan, the founder of the first West Virginia settlement. Active in 4-H, she was a lifetime member of the West Virginia All-Stars.

Mary Savannah Orndoff ’50, of Hagerstown, Maryland, died December 1, 2010. Until retiring in 1989, she was employed by the Washington County Board of Education for 44 years, most recently as a teacher at Winter Street Elementary School.

Philip Reed Overyl ’52, of Berkeley Springs, died March 15, 2011. He worked in the aerospace industry with Fair-child Aircraft in Maryland and Douglas and Boeing at Cape Canaveral, Florida. He retired from ARINC Research Corp in 1983. He served in the U.S. Merchant Marine.

Dudley B. Brown ’56, of Bunker Hill, died December 13, 2010. He was a veteran of World War II, joining the U.S. Navy in 1943 at the age of 15. He was on Omaha Beach on D-Day, June 6, 1944, at the age of 16. He retired from General Motors in 1993, after 20 years of employment.

Dr. Norman J. Johnston ’56, of Buena Vista, Colorado, died November 21, 2010. He worked for NASA Langley for 33 years, serving as a polymer section head, chief scientist for the materials division, and manager of composites technology for the structures directorate. He was instrumental in the development of high performance composite materials for subsonic and supersonic aeronautics programs.

Dr. Graham L. “Pete” Bullock ’57, of Leetown, died January 8, 2011. He earned his master’s degree in microbiology at the University of Wisconsin in 1959 and his doctorate at Fordham University in New York in 1970. He was a fish disease researcher and taught fish disease courses at the Eastern Fish Disease Laboratory in Leetown for 30 years until he retired in 1990. After retiring, he continued his research at Fresh Water Institute in Shepherdstown for 15 years.

Joseph Howard Doyle ’63, of Mount Airy, Maryland, died February 4, 2011. He had worked as a systems analyst for the Social Security Administration in Baltimore.

Pete Menke ’63, of Barnesville, Maryland, died January 18, 2011. He had been mayor of Barnesville since 2001 and was also a commissioner for 35 years. He worked as a coach and administrator for 42 years and coached baseball, football, and basketball. He was named Athletic Director of the Year in 1992 by the Maryland State Athletic Directors Association. While at Shepherd, he played football.

Charlie William Shobe ’63, of Monrovia, Maryland, died January 16, 2011. At Shepherd, he was a WVIAC champion swimmer and record holder in the butterfly event. He studied art at the Corcoran School of Art and West Virginia University. He was a lieutenant in the United States Marine Corps and served in the Vietnam War in 1967 and 1968.

Paul W. Wachter ’63, of Berkeley Springs, died June 18, 2011. He taught at Clear Spring Middle School, retiring as vice principal. He served in the U.S. Army before attending Shepherd.

James Thomas Orndoff ’68, of Martinsburg, died January 17, 2011. He had served with the U.S. Air National Guard and had been an art teacher at Martinsburg High School.

Daniel Gerald Ellis ’71, of Keedysville, Maryland, died November 24, 2010. He was employed as a system administrator with CSSS.NET in Falling Waters. He had previously worked with Solarex in Frederick, Maryland, and SFA Inc. in Frederick and Easton, Maryland. He was a member of Shepherd’s Epsilon Kappa chapter of Delta Sigma Pi.

Bill “Tobe” Thompson ’71 died April 22, 2011. He was a retired teacher and coach by profession for more than 21 years. He was inducted to the Shepherd Athletic Hall of Fame in 2008. He was the first Ram to be selected in the NBA draft by the Baltimore Bullets in 1969.

David Francis Kee ’76, of Martinsburg, died May 17, 2011. He was employed by Volvo Powertrain and had previously worked at Corning Glass Works for 25 years. He was a member of the last graduating class of St. Joseph High School in Martinsburg.

James Patrick Mark ’92, of Middletown, Maryland, died November 6, 2010. He earned an M.B.A. from Frostburg State University and was employed with UPS for 23 years, most recently as a sales and marketing manager.

Janeen G. Graham ’99, of Ranson, died December 2, 2010. She worked as a bank teller for many years before working as an information technology specialist for the Social Security Administration.
Alumni set sail on Royal Carribean cruise in January

The promise of warm weather and lots of sunshine in mid-January attracted 24 Shepherd alumni, family, and friends to cruise on Royal Caribbean’s newest and largest ship, the Allure of the Seas. After departing from Fort Lauderdale, Florida, everyone enjoyed the sandy beaches, tours, sports, and shopping in the ports of Labadee, Haiti, and Costa Maya and Cozumel, Mexico, as well as the many shipboard activities. The Broadway show Chicago and the Blue Planet show (an ecological journey of the world) were featured attractions as well as Ice Games and the Ocean Aria water shows exhibiting the talents of acrobats, singers, and dancers to entertain the group. Also on board was a concert by singer Taylor Swift.

Wearing their Shepherd alumni tees and hats, members of the group could easily be spotted onboard relaxing poolside, visiting the spa, or just enjoying the fine dining at the numerous restaurants and dining rooms. As a result of a special group promotion arranged through Barb Cline at Cruise Planners of Frederick, Maryland, the group received a $1,000 check from Royal Caribbean as a donation for the Shepherd University Alumni Association (SUAA). •

Above: Taking part in the alumni cruise were (l. to r.) Al Lueck ’67, John Wilmer, Pam Wilmer ’69, Allen Baker, Janie Baker ’68, Nancy Strite, Larry Strite ’60, Sara Lueck ’67, David Little ’68, Lynn Little ’70, Chas Rannells ’68, and Chris Rannells. Also participating were Walter Best ’55 and Sally Miller, Oliver ’60 and Bonnie Braxton, Richard and Kathy Klein, Chuck and Ingrid Klein, Robert and Delores Lowry, and Rick and Denise Caruso.

Right: Texie-Jane Roden, advancement events coordinator, accepts the $1,000 donation from Royal Caribbean on behalf of the SUAA. Also pictured are cruise participants David Little, Pam Wilmer, and Chas Rannells.
Professional Connections Day connects students with alumni

The Alumni Association hosted the second annual Professional Connections Day in partnership with the School of Business and Social Sciences and Career Services on Tuesday, April 5.

This year’s keynote speaker was Delegate Tiffany Lawrence ’04, who encouraged students to leave their mark wherever they go and whatever they do.

“Fall in love with the process of life and the results will follow,” she said. “You’ve got to want to do whatever you want to do more than just having the title. Life is too challenging for external rewards to sustain us. The joy is in the journey and the doing. Find something you love; that’s my challenge to you today.”

More than 100 students participated in the event which featured sessions on workplace communications, career development, and small business entrepreneurs.

“I like the idea of sharing with the students the career path I took and the life lessons I’ve learned,” said Sandy Sponaugle ’95, an Alumni Association board member and owner of Platinum PR. “I make mistakes every day, and I try to learn from each one of them.”

Blake Truman ’04, general manager for VerStandig Broadcasting based in Harrisonburg, Virginia, said he was happy to be able to come back to Shepherd. “Some of the most helpful advice I got came from events like this,” he said. “I appreciate the opportunity to do the same for current students.”

Stephen Lynch ’81, president of McShea Residential Services, Inc., Frederick, Maryland, said that he thinks that Professional Connections Day is a great way for alumni to give back to Shepherd and to give advice to students entering the work force. “We can pass (on our experience) so they don’t feel so intimidated,” Lynch said. “To have someone come back and prepare you is helpful.”

“This truly is one of the main visions of Shepherd: to take our strong liberal arts background and connect the different things you’ve learned for career preparation, so that there isn’t a big jump for you as you transition into the workforce,” said President Suzanne Shipley during her talk with the students attending the event. “This is a major component of making your transition seamless.”

“Today was excellent for networking,” said Josh Nichols, senior accounting and business major of Winchester, Virginia.

Delegate Tiffany Lawrence ’04, member of the West Virginia House of Delegates, was the keynote speaker for Professional Connections Day. Lawrence, who is also marketing and public relations manager for Hollywood Casino at Charles Town Races, encouraged students to “find something you love.”

“There were lots of great tips and it showed us a taste of what business seminars are like so we know what to expect.”

In addition to Sponaugle, Truman, and Lynch, speakers at this year’s event included Mark Baldwin, Martinsburg city manager; George “Bo” Bragaw ’79, senior vice president, investments, Wells Fargo Advisors LLC, Baltimore, Maryland; Scott L. Bradford-Doleman ’95, Alumni Association president and operations manager, FedEx Freight East, Hagerstown, Maryland; Jan Callen, executive director, United Way of the Eastern Panhandle; Matthew Gillmore, senior trooper, West Virginia State Police; Rob Hoxton, president and senior wealth advisor and CEO, Hoxton Financial, Shepherdstown; Cynthia A. “Cindy” Kitner ’97 and ’98, executive vice president and chief financial officer, Jefferson Security Bank, Shepherdstown; Julia Krall, director of annual giving, Shepherd University; Christopher E. “Chris” Mack ’88, chief financial officer, Appix, Henderson, Virginia; Mark Madison, historian, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services, Shepherdstown; Timothy B. “Tim” McShea ’80, chair and CEO, McShea & Co., Inc., Frederick, Maryland; Walt Pellish, Jefferson County Commissioner; Michael A. “Mike” Smith ’89, co-owner and vice president of Valley Proteins, Winchester, Virginia, and director, Shepherd University Foundation; Nelson E. Vazquez ’86, personal market claims director, Special Investigations Unit, Liberty Mutual Insurance, and member of the Alumni Association Board of Directors; and Al Young ’89, chief operating officer, LaSalle Hotel Properties, Bethesda, Maryland.

* Jillian Kesner

Corporate session presenters included alumni Al Young ’89 (l.) and Michael A. “Mike” Smith ’89.
Phonathon raises nearly $40K for Shepherd Fund

Shepherd students joined together with Julia Krall, director of annual giving; Alexis Reed ’06, director of alumni relations; Texie-Jane Roden, advancement events coordinator; and Jacqueline Binkley ’13, Phonathon student manager and Office of Advancement and Alumni Relations student worker, on February 7 to begin the four-week Phonathon event.

Support from alumni donors was tremendous this year, with the student callers securing more than $11,000 in pledges for the Shepherd Fund during the opening night. With the generous support of more than 550 Shepherd alumni and friends, nearly $40,000 were donated or pledged to Shepherd University.

The hardworking callers this year included students Kaitlyn Baird, Cameron Beckner, Courtney Carroll Estelow, Marilyn Greenfield, Matt Lyda, Katrina Miller, Kelli Moffett, Raven Moore, Audra Praskwiecz, Dillon Regalia, Rachel Russo, Danielle Stankus, Mellisa Walker, and Sarah Weed; coaches Monte Cater, Ernie McCook, Justin Namolik, and Casey Weitzel; and B.J. Pumroy, director of athletics.

Thanks to all the generous donors who supported Phonathon 2011. If you have any questions regarding the Shepherd Fund or for information about how to make an annual gift, please contact Julia Krall, director of annual giving, at jkrall@shepherd.edu or 304-876-5526.

“The Phonathon is a unique experience in that it really gives current students a way to connect with alumni through the means of bettering the school.”

Kaitlyn Baird ’12, English, Creative Writing

“‘It was great to connect with alumni. I spoke with a woman who graduated 40 years ago who experienced a lot of the same things I am. It was interesting to discover what has changed and what has stayed the same.’”

Mellisa Walker ’12, Elementary Education

Emeritus Club inducts the Class of 1961

Members of the Class of 1961 inducted into the Emeritus Club during the 55th annual induction luncheon on May 12 were (front row, l. to r.) Becky Shaffer, Anne Harris, Roger Forsythe, Eugene Latman, Dorothy Mason LeFevre, and Wilma Wolfe Roumel; back row, Bob Fraser, Dale Hicks, Fred Jefferson, Carroll Jones, R. Wayne Taylor, John Egle, and Nancy Weese Nolan. Newly elected Emeritus Club officers are Dale Hicks ’61, president; Anne Harris ’61, vice president; and Nancy Weese Nolan ’61, secretary.
Fourth annual SWAA golf outing raises funds for women’s sports

The Shepherd Women’s Athletic Alliance (SWAA) held its fourth annual golf outing on May 20 at Cress Creek Golf and Country Club in Shepherdstown. Proceeds from the SWAA golf outing provide an important source of funds to women’s athletic programs for scholarships and other program expenses. This year’s first place women’s team included (l. to r.) Joan Pope ’73, Nancy Streeter, Shelli Dronsfield, and Laurie Murray. First place co-ed team included (l. to r.) Chris Colbert ’95 and Dr. Jay Boyd and (not pictured) Devin McCreery and J.P. Phillips.

Homecoming is October 22; events announced for weeklong celebration

Wednesday, October 19
4 p.m., 11th Annual Academic Bowl, Student Center; Storer Ballroom, hosted by alumnus Bob Fleenor ’74, Shepherd’s own five-time Jeopardy champion.

Thursday, October 20
9 p.m., Annual Skit Competition, Student Center; Storer Ballroom. Come hear the singing and watch the dancing, acting and antics of Shepherd students as they create and perform a thematic skit for Homecoming.

Friday, October 21
9:30 a.m., 20th Annual Alumni Association Golf Tournament, Cress Creek Golf and Country Club, Shepherdstown. For information or to register, please call the Office of Alumni Relations at 800-344-5231, ext. 5157 or 304-876-5157 or e-mail alumni@shepherd.edu. Proceeds from this event support Shepherd athletic teams which do not generate their own revenue (softball, volleyball, lacrosse, golf, men’s and women’s soccer, and men’s and women’s tennis).

2:30 p.m., Founders Day Celebration.

Saturday, October 22
9 a.m., Alumni Breakfast, McMurran Hall front lawn, hosted by the Shepherd University Alumni Association (SUAA) and the Shepherd University Foundation. Visit with old and new friends for breakfast and the best seat on German Street for the Homecoming parade.
10 a.m., Class of 1961 Group Photo, McMurran Hall lawn.
10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Shepherd University Bookstore (www.shepherd-book.com) welcomes alumni and friends. The Bookstore is pleased to offer SUAA members a 10 percent discount on regular-priced items. Present your current SUAA membership card at the time of purchase.
10 a.m., Shepherd Athletic Advancement and SUAA Tailgate.
10:15 a.m., Homecoming Parade, German Street.
10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., Pregame Festivities, Midway.
Noon, Game Time, Shepherd Rams vs. West Virginia State.

Alumni Association hosts reception for grads
The post-Commencement reception, hosted by the Alumni Association, was held in a new location this year due to an inclement weather forecast. The reception was moved to the Wellness Center, which served as an excellent venue for recent graduates and our newest alumni to gather, socialize, and celebrate their accomplishments with their families and friends, as well as Shepherd faculty, staff, and alumni.
Shepherd University director of athletics B.J. Pumroy announced athletics award winners for the 2010-11 year. Senior baseball player Brian Collins, of Martinsburg, was named the male WVIAC Senior Scholar-Athlete, while senior softball player Nichole Pitcock, of Sterling, Virginia, garnered female WVIAC Senior Scholar-Athlete accolades.

Sophomore football player Keon Robinson, of Fairfax Station, Virginia, was named Male Athlete of the Year, while Pitcock took Female Athlete of the Year honors.

Robinson gained Second Team All-American, First Team All-Region, and First Team All-WVIAC honors in 2010 as he led all NCAA II in number of interceptions with 10.

Pitcock, a three-time WVIAC Pitcher of the Week this year, posted a 23-6 mark with a 1.61 ERA.

Senior football team member Deante Steele, of Woodbridge, Virginia, gained Male Senior Athlete of the Year honors, while Pitcock gained Female Senior Athlete of the Year honors.

Steele set an NCAA II record for most touchdowns on kick returns with 11 and tied the NCAA II mark with 13 touchdowns on all returns. He is a three-time All-American and was selected to play in the Cactus Bowl.

Pitcock is the program’s all-time leader in pitching wins, appearances, innings pitched, and strikeouts. She became the first player in program history to gain All-American honors in 2010 and was named the Martinsburg Journal Female Athlete of the Year as she helped lead Shepherd softball to its first-ever win at NCAA Regionals.

Sophomore Emily Daniel, of Beaver, of the women’s basketball team, was named the winner of the inaugural Ram Award. The award is given to the Shepherd student-athlete who exemplifies the best attributes of an NCAA II athlete.

Head football coach Monte Cater, who led the Rams to a record setting 12-2 mark as NCAA II Semifinalists, gained Coach of the Year honors. The Shepherd men’s and women’s tennis teams earned awards as the male and female teams with the top grade point average. The Rams Cup award, selected by the Student Athlete Advisory Committee, was presented to the women’s basketball team. • Chip Ransom

Chip Ransom

Minnich named All-American and Tino Martinez Award finalist

Junior designated hitter Nathan Minnich, Waynesboro, Pennsylvania, was named to the 2011 Daktronics NCAA Division II Baseball All-America Team. Minnich, a first team selection, became the first player in program history to garner first team All-American honors. He was also one of eight finalists for the Tino Martinez DII Player of the Year Award.

Minnich batted .433 with 52 hits in 120 at-bats. He drove in 38 runs and scored 42. He added nine doubles and 14 home runs. Minnich was ranked among the NCAA II leaders in several categories. He was third in on-base percentage (.553), fourth in home runs per game (0.38), fourth in slugging percentage (.858), eighth in batting average, and is tied for 12th in home runs (14). Minnich is ranked 27th in runs scored per game (1.14) and is tied for 28th in on base plus slugging (1.56).

Minnich was also named a second team Rawlings/ABCA NCAA II All-American and a third team National Collegiate Baseball Writers Association (NCBWA) Division II All-American. He also gained three different Regional Player of the Year accolades. • Chip Ransom

Shepherd University Magazine
Daktronics All-American honors to Pitcock
Senior pitcher/first baseman Nichole Pitcock of Sterling, Virginia, of the Shepherd softball team, was named to the 2011 Daktronics, Inc., All-America softball team. The squad is voted on by sports information directors in NCAA Division II. Pitcock gained honorable mention as a utility player for the second consecutive season.

Pitcock posted a remarkable year with a 23-6 pitching mark with a 1.61 earned run average. She had 187 strikeouts in 179 innings. Pitcock also batted .314 with 44 hits in 140 at-bats. She drove in a team-best 35 runs and scored 16. Pitcock set single season records for most pitching wins (23) and most strikeouts (187), while tying the season mark (with Tricia Bettura, 2010) for most appearances with 32. She holds Shepherd career pitching marks for most wins (57), most appearances (107), most complete games (61), most innings pitched (539.2), and most strikeouts (443).

Osborne named NCAA statistical champion
Redshirt-freshman guard Brantley Osborne, of Sunbury, Pennsylvania, of the men’s basketball team, will be honored with a plaque as the 2011 NCAA II statistical champion for three-point field goal percentage.

Osborne, who was second on the team in scoring with a 12.7 points per game average, drained 73-of-155 shots from beyond the arc for a .471 three-point field goal percentage.
Baseball
The baseball team finished with a 15-22 overall mark and a 10-18 record in conference play.

Junior designated hitter/first baseman Nathan Minnich, of Waynesboro, Pennsylvania, was named WVIAC Hitter of the Year and shared WVIAC Player of the Year honors with West Virginia Wesleyan’s Cy Mozingo. Freshman shortstop Aaron Scoville, of Centreville, Virginia, garnered Honorable Mention All-WVIAC honors.

Minnich started all 37 games and batted .433 with 52 hits in 120 at-bats. He drove in 38 runs and scored 42. He added nine doubles and 14 home runs. Minnich ranked among the NCAA II leaders in several categories.

Scoville started in all 37 games and batted .357 with 51 hits in 143 at-bats. He scored 32 runs and drove in 16. He added three doubles and a triple. His seven stolen bases topped the team and his 18 walks were second on the team. Scoville ranked 31st in NCAA II in the toughest to strike-out category.

Softball
The softball team recorded a 32-15 overall mark and a 19-5 conference record to finish second in the WVIAC regular season standings. The 32 wins are the second most in program history.

Six team members were named to the 2011 All-WVIAC Softball Team. Senior pitcher/first baseman Nichole Pitcock and senior outfielder Amber Dudek, both of Sterling, Virginia, gained first team honors. Freshman outfielder Jess Mason and junior third baseman Chelsie Oals, both of Hedgesville, were second team honorees, while senior infielder Cammie Orlandi, of Owings, Maryland, and senior catcher Megan Holmes, of Inwood, gained honorable mention accolades.

Pitcock posted a remarkable year with a 23-6 pitching mark and a 1.61 earned run average. She had 187 strikeouts in 179 innings. Pitcock also batted .314 with 44 hits in 140 at-bats. She drove in a team-best 35 runs and scored 16. Pitcock set numerous single season marks and holds virtually every Shepherd career pitching record.

Dudek batted .320 with a team best 48 hits in 150 at-bats. She drove in 29 runs and scored 25. Dudek topped the team in doubles (13), total bases (73), and tied for the team lead with two triples. Her 17 walks topped the team.

Orlandi batted .298 with 36 hits in 121 at-bats. She scored 15 runs and drove in 13. The slick-fielding infielder recorded a .963 fielding percentage with only six errors in 163 chances.

Holmes batted .244 with 29 hits in 199 at-bats. She drove in three doubles, a triple, and tied for the team lead in home runs with four.

Women’s Lacrosse
The women’s lacrosse team recorded an 8-7 overall mark in its second year of varsity competition. The Rams were noted by Lax Power.com as the most improved NCAA II women’s lacrosse team.

Shepherd used a balanced attack to rank 13th in NCAA II in scoring in 2011. Freshman Christine Ferrara, of California, Maryland, had 33 goals and a team-high 40 assists for 73 points to pace the team. She was followed by teammates Shannon Carta, of Davidsonville, Maryland, with a team-high 56 goals and 12 assists for 68 points, and sophomore Nicole Ruane, of Sykesville, Maryland, with 41 goals and 23 assists for 64 points.

Also making significant contributions were sophomore Krista Tippett, of Leonardtown, Maryland, with 39 goals and nine assists for 48 points; freshman Kelsey Eagan, of Baltimore, Maryland, with 16 goals and four assists for 20 points; and freshman netminder Emily Melanson, of Davidsonville, Maryland, who recorded a 14.03 goals against average with 156 saves.

Carta and Ruane were each recognized by Synapse Sports for mention in NCAA II Synapse Sports Honor Roll as being among the top players of the week.

Men’s Tennis
The men’s tennis team finished with a 10-11 overall mark and a 4-4 record in conference play.

Head coach Justin Pugh was named WVIAC Coach of the Year and freshman Chris Pratt, of Charleston, was an All-WVIAC selection.

Pugh helped guide the team from a ninth-place regular season finish in 2010 to a sixth-place ranking this season. Pugh joins former Shepherd coaches Roger Parker (1988) and Chris Stambaugh (2001, 2002, 2005) as the third Ram head men’s tennis coach to receive WVIAC Coach of the Year honors.

Pratt posted a 13-5 mark at number one singles and added a 15-4 record at number one doubles en route to gaining conference honors. • Chip Ransom
Cater celebrates 25th year as head coach of the Rams

The hallway outside Coach Monte Cater’s office is continually flowing with the traffic of fellow coaches and student-athletes of all sports—which is the way it has been since he arrived in 1987.

“I’ve seen a lot of good changes at Shepherd University,” said Cater. “We had my first spring practice where we are sitting now,” referring to his former practice field where the Butcher Center now sits.

In 30 years of coaching, Monte Cater has recorded 204 victories and is fourth among D-II active coaches, with 173 wins at Shepherd, 12 WVIAC conference titles, and most recently a national semi-finals appearance. But the program’s on-field success is not the only reason the WVIAC’s winningest coach has chosen to stay at Shepherd University for a quarter of a century.

“We are able to have success over the long haul by having a program based on the belief and principles of doing things the right way,” he said. To Coach Cater, that is more than game statistics. “Compliments that we receive about the way our kids act in hotels and restaurants are equally important as wins and losses.”

Cater’s arrival on Shepherd’s campus was due in part to baseball, of all things. While Cater was an assistant at Lakeland College in Wisconsin, fellow assistant Larry Kaufman took the head coaching position at Davis & Elkins. Once there, Kaufman had the opportunity to speak with Shepherd baseball coach Dean Pease, who mentioned the Rams were looking for a head football coach. Cater interviewed in December 1986 and was offered the position in February 1987. During his tenure at Shepherd, there have been four Shepherd presidents and five U.S. presidents.

“We’ve raised our kids here and made a home,” he said. “I’ve seen steady growth at Shepherd. From the facilities to enrollment, the philosophy has remained the same. Our students are not just numbers.”

The one area where numbers have been important was the Rams’ historic run through the playoffs last season. “No WVIAC team has ever made it out of the regional bracket,” said Cater.

From the home win against Shaw to the disappointing loss to Delta State, Cater called the experience “one of my high points in this business. [Due to] the efforts of our staff and kids and the staff at Shepherd, it was truly a special time.” Whether it was the cold in Pennsylvania or the rain in Mississippi, Shepherd had a following that Cater never doubted. “People took long trips, rode buses just to be part of what we were doing.”

Cater’s 25 years at Shepherd have brought many similar joys. His football program has grown along with facility improvements and alumni support. Mentoring his staff and watching them grow and develop have been just as rewarding. “I’ve been fortunate to have assistants under me who have developed and went on to successful careers.”

With the success of last year, Cater is looking forward to his 25th season on the sideline. “The defense looks good. We have eight guys back. The offensive is going to be talented in many ways including wide receiver,” he said.

When the ball is placed and the Rams begin the 2011 season, there won’t be anyone more focused than Coach Cater. “There is no better place to be on a Saturday in the West Virginia Conference than Ram Stadium,” Cater said with a smile.

And so it will go for the 25th season—a season whose history will be written on 11 Saturdays in the fall by the Rams’ author, Coach Monte Cater. ■ Aaron Ryan

Shepherd University will be honoring Coach Cater’s 25th season during Homecoming week, Oct. 17-22. Please check shepconnect.shepherd.edu through-out the fall for more information.

Coach Cater exemplifies the true character of Shepherd University—he’s hard-working and knows that winning is about discipline, not luck. Our student athletes are in good hands with such fine leadership and strong expectations.”

“Having someone like Monte Cater coaching in the WVIAC gives the conference instant credibility. The way that Monte runs his program and the consistent success that he has had at Shepherd make him a model for other coaches not only in the WVIAC but in all of the sport of college football to emulate.”

President Suzanne Shipley

Commissioner Barry Blizzard

Football scholarship started to honor Monte Cater’s 25th year

To honor head coach Monte Cater on his 25 years of meritorious service to Shepherd University and its football program, AL ’67 and SARAH ’67 LUECK launched the Monte Cater Silver Anniversary Endowed Football Scholarship endowment with a $10,000 gift. The Luecks hope this gift will help encourage players, coaches, and fans from the past 25 years to make a donation in honor of an individual who has given so much to Shepherd University. An endowed fund requires a minimum of $25,000 to become fully endowed. For additional information, please contact Aaron Ryan, director of athletic development, at 304-876-5527 or aryan@shepherd.edu.
The Foundation at 50

Four men have led the Foundation during the past half century.

In its 50-year history, the Shepherd University Foundation has been led by four distinguished presidents. Coming from backgrounds of education, politics, and corporate and small business, the four are united in a common bond: their devotion to Shepherd. This devotion has helped develop the Foundation from a small organization created to process state grant funds into an independent corporation with assets totaling more than $27 million.

The Founder

In 1961 the Shepherd University Foundation was born from a collaborative effort between a small group of Shepherd College faculty and alumni and President Oliver S. Ikenberry. Leading the way was William “Pappy” Thacher, who served as president upon his retirement from the Shepherd College faculty in 1961 until his death in 1972. He set the bar high for those leaders yet to come. Dedicated to ensuring that students could attend college, William and his wife Ruth boarded students in their home for a dollar a day. During his 38-year tenure as a Shepherd faculty member, Thacher not only taught on campus, but drove to Romney, Moorefield, Berkeley Springs, and Keyser to teach as well. Thacher frequently represented Shepherd at conferences and in other professional capacities, including serving on panels and being published in several journals. His hard work and dedication to give students the best possible education were also apparent in his campus work. Most notably, Thacher introduced 12 new courses into Shepherd’s curriculum, including Money and Banking and Marriage and Family.

The Thacher name is still prominent at Shepherd today. William’s wife Ruth Power Thacher shared his passion as an educator and went on to serve the Foundation as a longtime board officer and honorary director. In 1970 Thacher Hall was named in Professor Thacher’s honor, and in 1987 the Shepherd University Foundation, along with family and friends, established the William R. Thacher Memorial Scholarship. This scholarship is designated as a general academic scholarship—a fitting tribute to the man whose lifelong passion was helping others pursue education.

The Visionary

James M. "Hank" Moler ’30 became the Shepherd University Foundation’s second president upon William Thacher’s death in 1972. Dr. Moler, a longtime member of Shepherd’s faculty and a West Virginia legislator, served in the office of president for 26 years and as an administrative officer for 35 years. Under his leadership, the Shepherd Foundation grew into an organization run primarily by volunteers actively seeking private donations. Dr. Moler created and led the investment committee to manage and invest donations to grow assets for the University. During his tenure, the Foundation’s assets grew to $13 million.

Both Dr. Moler and his wife Katherine Moler ’30 were founding members of the Joseph P. McMurran Society, which recognizes those who wish to provide for the future of Shepherd University through planned gifts. In 1981 the Molers established the James and Katherine Moler Scholarship Endowment to help West Virginia student-athletes in the football program. This scholarship reflects both the passion that James and Katherine had for athletics, as well as their desire to help students achieve their academic dreams.

To commemorate the Molers’ contributions to the Shepherd, Moler Hall was named in their honor in 1985. Dr. Moler was named Outstanding Alumnus in 1968. In 1991 he was awarded an honorary doctorate, and in 1997 he received the President’s Award for his contributions to the University and the community. These accolades, along with the Moler endowment, ensure that Dr. Moler will be remembered for his service to Shepherd in very concrete, lasting ways.

James M. Moler ’30

“I give full credit to the many donors and volunteers who have built the Foundation into a strong institution. As a founding director, I call each Shepherd graduate to stand and be counted by making a gift or pledge for the benefit of Shepherd College.”

• James M. Moler, 2003
The Entrepreneur

The Foundation’s third president, James M. “Jim” Davis ’59, took office in 1998 upon Dr. Moler’s retirement. Jim, who served as secretary, treasurer, and general manager of the Supertane Gas Corporation for 33 years, has been a prominent fixture in Jefferson County. He has served in many capacities, including president of the Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce, president of the Jefferson County Development Authority, and on the boards of several local banks including the People’s Bank of Charles Town, BancOne, and Jefferson Security Bank. For his outstanding community work, Jim was named the Jefferson County Citizen of the Year in 1993.

Upon his election to the Foundation’s presidency, he quickly continued to expand the organization that his predecessors helped mold and sustain. During his time in office, Jim led the efforts in raising capital funding for both the library and stadium expansions, increasing the number of scholarships and program awards funded by private gifts, and increasing the total assets of the organization to more than $20 million. The work of the Foundation grew so exponentially during his eight-year term that an increase in office space and staff was necessary. In May 2004 the Foundation moved to its current location in historic McMurran Hall.

Serving as the chair of Shepherd’s precampaign committee in 2004-05, Jim was a key component to the eventual success of Shepherd’s recently completed first-ever comprehensive campaign. Both Jim and his wife Mary Jane Davis ’60 have worked together to strengthen Shepherd’s legacy, including becoming members of the Joseph P. McMurran Society and establishing the Mary Jane Davis Scholarship, which benefits education students. Jim’s work on behalf of the University and the community was recognized in 2006 when he was named Outstanding Alumus of the Year. Although he stepped down as president in 2006, Jim continues to serve the Shepherd Foundation as vice president.

The Strategist

Current Foundation President Ramon A. Alvarez ’62, elected to office in 2006, brings a strong financial and managerial background to the position. As a senior executive with Honeywell, a Fortune 100 company dedicated to creating global technologies in the areas of safety, security, and energy, Ray prided himself on the quality education he received while at Shepherd.

It was this awareness and appreciation of his alma mater that brought him back to Shepherdstown after he retired. Although only in his fifth year as president, Ray has already made a strong mark on the Foundation. Continued growth in staff, strategic planning and technologies, diversification in areas of investments and fundraising (especially in faculty excellence), and a strengthening of University partnerships have all helped develop the Foundation’s sound infrastructure for the recruitment and management of funds. As the founding and current president of the Scarborough Society, Ray has also been instrumental in the raising of hundreds of thousands of dollars for the improvement of the Scarborough Library. His service to Shepherd was recognized in 2004 when he was awarded an honorary doctorate.

Perhaps most impressive has been Alvarez’s ability to steer the ship through two of the biggest events in the Foundation’s history: a serious economic downturn and the University’s first comprehensive campaign. Under Ray’s leadership, the Foundation has been able to weather the economic crisis through strong fiduciary management practices. Additionally, Ray has served as vice chair of the Create the Future Campaign committee that can boast phenomenal success. Upon its completion in June, the Campaign raised more than $26 million dollars for the University—an impressive 126 percent of the target goal.

Ray and his wife Mary have created three endowed funds for the Foundation: the Helen and Albert Alvarez Memorial, which assists West Virginia high school graduates in need of financial aid; the Helene Alvarez Bazzrea Endowment, which benefits students majoring in elementary education; and the Ramon A. and Mary E. Alvarez Faculty Excellence Endowment in Business Administration. Through these established funds and his endeavors as president, Ray continues to honor his strong sense of obligation to enhancing the school that was so critical to his personal and professional success.

• Jim Davis

“Being a part of the Foundation gave me an opportunity to play a role in building a strong future for Shepherd, the institution, and for all who look to it to achieve important goals.”

• Meg Peterson

Ramon A. Alvarez ’62

“Serving on the Foundation Board with its highly dedicated professionals and volunteers is certainly one of the highlights of my career. Everyone has a keen sense of purpose in knowing that if we do our jobs, Shepherd University and its students, faculty, and staff will benefit far into the future. As such, it is rewarding to know we are a continuing part of the legacy of Shepherd University.”

• Ray Alvarez
The Jerry and Carol Kerr Faculty Excellence Award was established as a means of attracting and retaining accounting department faculty. Jerry quickly observed during his 10 plus years on the Foundation board the gap between state funding and budgetary needs, especially in the areas of faculty salaries. “It was apparent that Shepherd had good faculty, but they couldn’t afford to live in Shepherdstown,” said Kerr. “Shepherd needed help financially to entice and keep excellent faculty members.”

Kerr’s observation, and subsequent creation of the endowment, is greatly appreciated by those it affects the most. “The Kerr Faculty Excellence Endowment in Accounting is a wonderful opportunity to promote and support faculty continuing education, while also rewarding and recognizing faculty hard work and excellence in teaching, service, and professional activities,” said Dr. Ann Legreid, dean of the School of Business and Social Sciences. “Continuing credits are particularly important to our teaching faculty in accounting, who must stay current on practices and laws. That includes a growing need for international expertise.”

It is the Kerrs’ willingness to help support current and future accountants that fueled the creation of their first endowment as well. The Jerry and Carol Kerr Scholarship, established in 2000 for accounting students, bloomed from Jerry’s own experience at Shepherd. Kerr, who worked his way through school, knows the financial strain it can place on a student. “If this can help in a small way, that’s great,” said Kerr.

Jerry and Carol Kerr have already contributed a great amount of time and financial support to both Shepherd and the Shepherd University Foundation, but they have plans to increase their original endowment in the next few years. “The need for the Foundation, and the gifts it brings in, becomes greater and greater every day,” said Kerr. “With budgets growing tighter, Shepherd will have to look more toward the Foundation for support. I’ve enjoyed being able to raise money for the University through my position on the board.”

If you would like to create a legacy as the Kerrs have for students and faculty, please contact the Shepherd University Foundation at 304-876-5397 or by e-mail to mlingenf@shepherd.edu.

Carol and Jerry ’68 Kerr have established a legacy for the Department of Accounting with the creation of two endowed funds.
In her own words, **Dr. Jane Ikenberry-Dorrier ’65**, daughter of Shepherd University’s 11th president, Dr. Oliver S. Ikenberry, 1947-1968, and current member of the Shepherd University Foundation Board of Directors, describes why the Shepherd University Foundation holds a special place in her heart.

“The Shepherd University Foundation has always been very special to me and to our Ikenberry family. My brother, **Dr. Stanley Ikenberry ’56**, and sister, **Margaret Elizabeth “Betty” Wade ’58**, have also been very active in supporting the services of the Foundation. We take great pleasure in presenting each year at the Shepherd Student Recognition Day the Oliver S. Ikenberry Distinguished Human Service and Leadership Award to a worthy male and female student in memory of our father who devoted his life to the encouragement of students and to furthering their education and talents.

“We also present a gift on behalf of our mother, Margaret Ikenberry, to help preserve and beautify the flower gardens at Popidicon for student and faculty/staff enjoyment. Mother and Dad very much enjoyed welcoming the many students, faculty, and staff into our home and the celebration of student achievements during his 21-year tenure as president of Shepherd.

“As president, Oliver Ikenberry created the Shepherd College (now University) Foundation with Professor William Thacher and Dr. James Moler to help make attending Shepherd possible for many students who depended on this financial assistance and encouragement. The Foundation has enabled many worthy students to receive a degree in higher education at Shepherd, which otherwise would not have been within reach.

“It is important that all of us as Shepherd alumni remember to support the Shepherd University Foundation to continue its important mission. The Foundation contributes to the quality of life at Shepherd in its award of various gifts to academic programs and student scholarships which makes for the quality education offered by one of the best universities in the nation.”

If you would like to honor a loved one by making a gift in his or her name to the Shepherd University, please contact Monica Lingenfelter, executive vice president of the Foundation, 304-876-5397 or by e-mail to mlingenf@shepherd.edu.

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**The Foundation at 50**

“Our family ties to the Shepherd University Foundation go back to its origin. Jack’s father, John L. Egle, was one of the founding members and original directors. As Shepherd’s business manager for nearly 20 years, he worked closely with students, exhibiting a keen awareness for their financial needs and doing what he could to assist them. He embraced the concept of the Foundation as a valuable means of providing financial assistance to both students in need and the school. He continued to be active with the Foundation after leaving Shepherd.

“Following the death of his wife, Ann Hill Egle ’36, John established a memorial fund in her name and contributed to it for the remainder of his life. We then added his name to the memorial and continue to support it. Several years ago we put Shepherd in our wills and more recently became aware of an opportunity to establish a scholarship through a charitable gift annuity which provides immediate benefits for us as well as committing support to the University. We feel we received an excellent education at Shepherd which prepared us well for our careers. Given today’s difficult economic times, rising tuition costs, and the need for institutions to increase funding from non-state sources, we believe the role of the Foundation is vital for Shepherd, and we find it rewarding to play a role in its mission.”

* Pat ’60 and Jack ’61 Egle, Joseph P. McMurran Society members
The Foundation at 50

"While there are several organizations committed to the strength of Shepherd’s life as a university, it is the Foundation whose efforts weave a fabric supportive of strategic goals."

• Jim Davis ’59, former president and current vice president of the Shepherd University Foundation Board of Directors

"Over a period of many years as a member of the Shepherd University Foundation Board of Directors, under the leadership of Foundation president and founding member James Moler, I was taught the true meaning of the term ‘philanthropy.’ Dr. Moler taught through his actions.

“My wife Sara and I participate in many Foundation activities. She is secretary of the Foundation’s Scarborough Society, a friends of the library organization, and I am secretary of the Foundation. As Shepherd alumni, we understand the value of a Shepherd education. Shepherd is moving forward as a regional public liberal arts university with Dr. Suzanne Shipley as its president, and we applaud her efforts.

“Giving to the Foundation has given Sara and me the feeling that we really are helping Shepherd students become part of an educated citizenry. Perhaps others can have that feeling as well.”

• Al ’67 and Sara ’67 Lueck

Shepherd University Foundation celebrates 50 years

Recommit yourself to the future

by Ramon A. Alvarez ’62
President, Shepherd University Foundation

As alumni, we once committed our education to Shepherd University at a critical coming of age. This commitment was among the most important we have ever made in our lives. Likewise, as members of the Shepherdstown community, friends of the University, and those seeking to continue their education through its classes and programs, we have committed ourselves to cultivating its important role in the cultural and economic lifestyle of West Virginia’s Eastern Panhandle.

As the Shepherd University Foundation celebrates its milestone 50th anniversary this year, I would like to suggest that everyone whose lives have been touched by this great institution once again spend a few moments reflecting upon all that Shepherd has given you, and how you might recommit yourselves to it.

Think about the role this University and its professors played in your personal and professional development, and how your life has been enhanced by the education you received. Think about the academic, cultural, and career experiences Shepherd offers its students, faculty/staff, and community, and how the surrounding region benefits from its continued growth. Then think about how you might give back to an institution that has given so much to you.

There are numerous opportunities for you to recommit yourself to Shepherd University. Affinity groups such as athletics, theater, music, the Scarborough Library, and the Alumni Association benefit from your time, talent, and treasury.

As president of the Shepherd University Foundation, it is my duty to ask that you consider becoming an active contributor to our annual fund or endow a scholarship, program, or faculty excellence award through the Foundation. These gifts ensure that future scholars receive the same quality education as those of us who once committed our own education to Shepherd.

Additionally, a deferred gift is an excellent way to provide financial support for the continued success of Shepherd University. While you may not have the financial confidence or ability to make a gift right now, a deferred gift such as a bequest will make a difference in the lives of future generations of Shepherd students. Please let the Foundation know of your intent to join the Joseph P. McMurran Society with a planned gift, and we will be happy to help guide you through the process.

Shepherd University’s outstanding alumni and community friends have been instrumental in creating its legacy. We hope that you will recommit to being equally involved in the process of creating its future as well.
of Shepherd University

A special thanks to our board members

As president of the Shepherd University Foundation, I would like to extend my deepest admiration to the past and present members of its Board of Directors who, over the past five decades, have helped to make the Foundation the outstanding entity it is today. As stewards of this fine organization, it is our responsibility to cultivate its continued growth and development, as well as that of Shepherd University. We can do this through four simple steps:

Giving

Our primary role is to assist Shepherd University in raising money. As board members, it is our duty to lead by example and give generously to our varied annual funds and endowments.

Gathering

In addition to perennial giving, we have a shared responsibility to assist Shepherd University in the solicitation of funds and other fundraising opportunities. This is becoming a critical aspect of our mission, as the University needs financial support more than ever.

Guarding

We have a dual role of stewardship and fiduciary responsibility. We work with Shepherd University to assure funds are used as designated and agreed upon with donors. We also manage donations so that the underlying endowments are maintained for the future benefit of the University, while delivering adequate annual income to fund scholarships, faculty excellence, and University support.

Goodwill

It is our duty to foster a strong sense of support for the University among alumni, friends, and the overall community.

As past, current, and future members of this board, you have fulfilled these roles in an exemplary fashion and are part of an incredible legacy that will benefit Shepherd University and its students into a strong destiny. Future generations of the Shepherd University family will look back fondly on these acts and give you their deepest appreciation.

Ramon A. Alvarez ’62

The Foundation at 50

“One of the primary goals of the Shepherd faculty is to instill within students an understanding of the importance of a university education to their lifelong development as professionals and as citizens. The contributions to and vitality of the Shepherd University Foundation clearly demonstrate the impact that the University has on its students and on the larger community, as well as the continuing relevance of higher education in their lives. The generosity of these benefactors is appreciated by the current faculty and students, and will also benefit future generations.”

Dr. Jason Best, professor of astronomy and astrophysics at Shepherd University and member of the Shepherd University Foundation Board of Directors

“I would personally like to thank the Dr. I.O. Ash family for their generosity and commitment to education through their scholarship gift.”

John W. Stuart III, Dr. I.O. Ash Scholarship (2002)
From the Foundation

Scarborough Gala thanks its sponsors

The 10th annual Scarborough Society Gala was held Friday, August 12 at the Bavarian Inn in Shepherdstown. The theme for this year’s black-tie event was “Around the World in 80 Days,” based on the novel by French author Jules Verne. Presenting sponsors were BB&T Wealth Management and Jefferson Security Bank. Valley Proteins, Inc. sponsored the band, Souled Out. Program sponsors included Capital Fiduciary Advisors and Jerry Williams, State Farm Insurance. Other theme sponsors included United Bank; Bowles Rice MacDavid Graff & Love, LLC; Smith Elliott Kearns & Co., LLC; and CoxHollidaPrice, LLP. The Foundation warmly acknowledges these sponsors, without whom this popular, stylish event, enjoyed by alumni and community members alike, would not be possible.

McMurran Society welcomes new members

The annual Joseph P. McMurran Society Dinner Reception, hosted by President Suzanne Shipley and the Foundation, was held on Saturday, May 30. Previous members were welcomed back while new ones were honored with a framed medallion and nameplate.

Guests mingled in the atrium of Erma Ora Byrd Hall surrounded by candlelight and monochromatic displays of white hydrangeas and fresh greenery. Later, they were treated to a surf-and-turf dinner exclusively prepared by Chef Scott Anderson and Shepherd University Catering while enjoying panoramic views of the campus. The Joseph P. McMurran Society recently welcomed new members **Dr. Robert A. Holmes ’64, Lisa Clem Johnson ’73, and Garland H. Ott ’62.**

To learn more about joining the McMurran Society, contact Monica Lingenfelter at 304-876-5397 or by e-mail mlingenf@shepherd.edu.
The Foundation at 50

“I am very grateful to the Rauch family and other donors who make contributions to fund scholarships for Shepherd students.”
• Joshua Alexander, Carl K. Rauch Endowed Scholarship for Mathematics (2002)

“Without your support, I know that my family and I would be struggling right now. I truly appreciate your generosity and will use the knowledge that I have acquired at Shepherd College to the fullest.”
• Maria Lopez, McCormack Nursing Scholarship (2001)

“I am paying my own way through college. With a triple major, there is very little time to hold down a job. The scholarship award I have received through the Shepherd University Foundation actually makes it possible for me to pursue my education.”
• Kierstan Huff, Elizabeth Thornburg Brown Scholarship (1997)

“I am extremely grateful that there are people out there willing to help students by giving to the Foundation. I plan on becoming a science teacher and hope to contribute to society by teaching a new generation of students.”
• Keith Howard (1998)
The Foundation at 50

“Hopefully, I will someday be able to give back to generations to come of Shepherd students and help them further their education like you have made possible for me.”


“I have plans to work in the Eastern Panhandle where I was born and raised...and have a successful career in the field of pharmacy. Your investment in me is an investment in our community.”

- Samantha Richards, William Thacher Scholarship and Charles Town Kiwanis Scholarship (2008)

“I n the future I hope to be in a position to return the favor to others, as you have graciously extended it to me.”

- Peter Mendez, Jefferson Distributing Scholarship (2006)

“It is heartwarming to know that there are still people in the world who believe in the power of hard work. I promise to commit myself so as to not disappoint those who have selected me.”


From the Foundation

‘Anthology’ published with Foundation’s assistance
Shepherd University published the Anthology of Appalachian Writers, Bobbie Ann Mason Volume III, with support and funding from the West Virginia Center for the Book and the Shepherd University Foundation. The publication was edited by Shepherd English department faculty members Dr. Sylvia Shurbutt and the late F. Ethan Fischer, to whom this anthology is dedicated, along with colleagues Charlotte Hennings and David O. Hoffman.

Donor gives a green gift for campus beautification project
The Campus Tree Committee, composed of the biology faculty, one environmental sciences faculty member, and one student representative, is working with the Shepherd Building and Grounds Committee and Facilities Management to promote the planting and responsible care of a diverse community of native trees on our campus. To get things started, the first tree-planting event was held on campus April 14 to celebrate Arbor Day.

Now, a community champion has come out of the woods with a gift and a challenge...
to others. Tobey Pierce is passionate about trees, having planted 100 on his Shepherdstown-area property, and he sees countless opportunities for Shepherd’s campus.

“Trees carefully chosen for longevity and thoughtfully placed will provide lasting shade for students as they walk to classes and athletic events,” he said. “Native trees will thrive and not only beautify the campus but trap carbon in their leaves and woody tissue to offset the greenhouse effect.”

Tobey said that he wanted a way to give back to the University for all that it offers him, his family, and the Shepherdstown community. He also hoped that the donation would be the catalyst for additional contributions. A tropical forester by profession, Tobey said that donating a shade tree was the natural way to go. The Shepherd University Foundation provided the opportunity and the tree committee was prepared to help in the planting. Contact the Foundation to make a gift at 304-876-5397.

Library purchases painting from Foundation scholar
The Scarborough Library has purchased a painting by Shepherd senior and Foundation scholar Morgan Wisniewski (Andrew F. and Virginia Heckert Long Scholarship and Jessie and Mary Hendrix Scholarship). The figurative oil painting, titled “Confronting,” is on display in the library Reading Room.

“I am exploring figurative paintings and how far I can push this style,” said Morgan about her work. “I have been using patterns as a way of directing the piece from far away, allowing it to be seen almost like a billboard and appreciated at that distance.

“Color is a major part of each piece and how the figure is perceived. Some colors are chosen solely based on aesthetics, and others are chosen by their emotive qualities. My work is open to interpretation,” she concluded.

Faculty and staff members are pleased with the purchase. “We welcome everyone who would like to stop by the library Reading Room and admire this engaging work from one of our very own artists,” said Dr. Laura Renninger, dean of Teaching and Learning.

Scarborough Society Art/Lecture Series announces season
The Scarborough Society Lecture Series is gearing up for another exciting season. All events will take place in the Scarborough Library Reading Room with a reception afterward.

September
The Shepherd University Department of Contemporary Art and Theater will present its annual Faculty Art Show during the fall semester. The show will run September 12-24, with an opening night reception on Monday, September 12 from 5-7 p.m.

October
Dr. Kevin Williams, chair of Shepherd’s Department of Communications, will discuss his book, Why I (Still) Want My MTV, on Thursday, October 20, at 6 p.m.

March
As part of Shepherd University’s celebration of the 250th anniversary of Shepherdstown, John Allen will discuss his upcoming book Uncommon Vernacular: The Early Houses of Jefferson County, West Virginia, 1735-1835 on Tuesday, March 6 at 7 p.m.

For more information about these events, please visit the Foundation’s website at www.shepherd.edu/fndtnweb/.

SU named to Honor Roll
(continued from page 4)

The award is based on 2010 projects, and Frye said Shepherd students embraced the opportunity to get involved with social justice issues and are serving the most vulnerable populations. “We’ve participated in community service projects without recognition, but it’s nice to have the means that the institution and the students can be recognized,” she said.

The award is based on 2010 projects, which included Relay for Life to benefit the American Cancer Society (Shepherd has raised more than $350,000 from 2003 through 2010); Alternative Spring Break experience where 38 students spent their spring break in locations working with a Habitat for Humanity affiliate in North Carolina and various nonprofit organizations around the Eastern Panhandle; and 79 participants distributed more than 40,000 pounds of potatoes to 20 area nonprofit agencies.

According to Frye, Shepherd is the only school in the state to be recognized for the award. “We’re very excited to move up a level,” she said.

Jillian Kesner
m.a., director
Randy Thompson ’93 is a man of vision. As CEO of Thompson Gas, a third generation family-owned and -operated provider of propane products, he has grown the business to 30 locations with 325 employees serving more than 150,000 customers in 10 states, with annual revenues of $125 million.

So, when presented with the opportunity to begin a new winemaking venture in Rohrersville, Maryland, Thompson took it. He and his wife, Jennifer, have partnered with Dave Collins, former vineyard manager and winemaker at the award-winning Breaux Vineyards in Loudoun County, Virginia, to establish Big Cork Vineyards, the second largest vineyard in Washington County.

“When you find the right people who can execute a plan, you want to go into business with them,” Randy said.

Thompson graduated from Shepherd University in 1993 with a B.S. in business administration, following a tour of duty with the United States Marine Corps as a logistics officer in Desert Storm. During his time at Shepherd he also worked for Thompson Gas, joining the company in 1987 as an installer and rising to the rank of vice president by 1992, with a focus on marketing and logistical improvements. Working full-time while attending college allowed Thompson multiple opportunities to test and execute many of the business practices he learned in the classroom. Utilizing his personal ingenuity and a solid work ethic, he was appointed to CEO of Thompson Gas in 1998.

“I credit Shepherd’s small class sizes and intimate teaching qualities with giving me a good foundation in business,” he said of the role his alma mater played in shaping his career.

Now Randy plans to rely on that strong business foundation to turn Big Cork Vineyards into a premier mid-Atlantic wine label. He and Collins have begun the process by cultivating 13 grape varieties on 22 acres of a 100-acre farm. The young vineyard will ultimately cultivate seven red grape varieties and six white. Together with Collins, the Thompsons plan to build a wine production facility in one to two years, and open a tasting room within two to three years. The vineyard will produce 5,000 cases of wine annually and employ 20-30 full- and part-time workers.

It’s also important to Randy that he and his team act as good stewards of the land, leading them to take a decidedly green approach to winemaking. He plans to make every attempt to avoid the use of herbicides and pesticides, including utilizing cover crops between planting rows to keep weeds to a minimum. A raptor and barn owl program will help manage the moles, ground hogs, and other vermin that cover crops can attract. Perches and boxes have been strategically placed to encourage these large birds to take up residence and manage pests naturally.

Additionally, Randy plans to use “green” fuel via the use of propane-powered mowers to maintain the land. He is also working with a propane flame cultivation vendor to test the use of a vineyard/orchard flamer to burn weeds as opposed to using pesticides. These are exciting developments for Thompson, as they naturally integrate both businesses about which he is passionate.

Randy strongly believes in the value of a Shepherd education and feels it contributed to much of his professional success. As a former board member of the Shepherd University Foundation, which celebrates its milestone 50th anniversary this year, he appreciates the opportunity to reflect upon how the organization serves the Shepherd community and how he might recommit himself to the institution. As a result, he is working with the Foundation to create an endowed scholarship fund from the Thompson Gas family.

“I understand and appreciate the impact the Foundation has on the lives of Shepherd students and faculty, as well as the ability to build infrastructure to grow and expand the University,” he said. “Its mission is critical for the overall success of Shepherd University.”

It’s this foresight to success that continues to drive Thompson personally and professionally. And he enjoys watching ideas come to fruition. As he walked the land of his new vineyard with his son in May, they spotted a hawk circling one of the recently installed raptor perches.

“That was exciting,” he said. “Watching a vision come to life like that.”

Kristin Alexander
Delta Sigma Pi business fraternity celebrates its 50th anniversary

Shepherd University’s Epsilon Kappa chapter of the Delta Sigma Pi fraternity celebrated its 50th Anniversary on February 19 with a reception and dinner hosted by its alumni group at the Clarion Hotel in Shepherdstown. It was attended by more than 170 alumni, student members, and guests. President Suzanne Shiple welcomed the group and commented on the significance of the business programs at Shepherd University and their continuing role.

Delta Sigma Pi is a national co-ed professional fraternity organized to foster the study of business in universities and is considered the foremost professional fraternity for men and women pursuing business careers. Shepherd University’s Epsilon Kappa chapter was organized by Professor Charles Printz ’40 to serve the students in the business program and was formally initiated into the national organization in February 1961.

In attendance at the reception and dinner were Professor Printz, and two of the chapter’s founding members, Ramon A. Alvarez ’62 and Art Saladino ’61. Also in attendance was a member of its first initiation class, Robert Dotton ’65.

The Shepherd University chapter continues to be active on campus and is comprised of students majoring in business administration, accounting, economics, and computer information science. The alumni chapter meets regularly in Shepherdstown and Frederick, Maryland. For more information, please contact Dawn Pitzer ’99 at 304-283-5624.
Groundbreaking held in April for CCA II
Participants in the groundbreaking for the Center for Contemporary Arts Phase II were (l. to r.) Peggy McKowen, CATF; Dow Benedict, dean of the School of Arts and Humanities; Mary Clare Eros, chair of the Board of Governors; Bob McMillan, Create Campaign chair; Jenny Allen, CATF president; President Suzanne Shipley; Dr. Rich Helldobler, vice president for academic affairs; Delegate John Doyle; Steve Reneker, project manager; Eddie Kung, architect with Holzman Moss Bottino; and Dan Yanna, director of facilities.