Greetings Graduate Students!

We hope you are staying warm, safe and secure in what has been a chilly start to the semester! We are excited about future degree and credential offerings in the graduate area, as our ability to provide access to advanced education in the region continues to expand.

We also look forward to seeing you at many of our upcoming events:

- West Virginia Graduate Research Day, April 18th
- Graduate Studies Banquet, May 7th and of course, Commencement on May 9th

Graduate students continue to participate in the culture of the university through student advisory councils like the MBA and Dean’s student advisory council, Student Life and Graduate Council, as well as the budget advisory and academic re-structuring committee.

Later on in this document you’ll see links for the Distinguished Graduate Student and Faculty awards, as well as reminders of important deadlines. We hope that you’ll continue to stay connected with us after graduate through the alumni office or through our facebook pages.

“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.” – Nelson Mandela

If you have questions, or if I can personally be of assistance, please contact me at 304-876-5313 or via email sbeard@shepherd.edu.

Join us on Thursday, May 7th at 6:30 p.m. for the Graduate Studies Banquet! The event will be held in the Storer Ballroom, located on the third floor of the Student Center. Be sure to attend with family and friends, as we hear remarks from our keynote speaker, give out faculty and student awards, and celebrate the accomplishments of our Graduate Studies students, faculty and staff.

Our featured speaker this year is Mr. Rod Snyder. Rod is the immediate past president of the Young Democrats of America, the largest partisan youth organization in the country and the official youth arm of the national Democratic Party. He is the only YDA president in history to be elected and reelected unanimously. From 2010 - 2013, his position with YDA afforded him a seat on the Executive Committee of the Democratic National Committee, and he has made appearances on MSNBC, Fox News, CNN, CBS News, C-SPAN and Al Jazeera to discuss the youth vote. During his tenure, he founded the YDA Faith & Values Initiative and was a speaker at the 2012 Democratic National Convention’s Faith Council meeting. He has written and spoken frequently on the intersection of faith and politics. He is currently president of Field to Market, the Alliance of Sustainable Agriculture. He is a graduate of Eastern University.
Graduate Student Advisory Council

Students, please feel free to contact your programmatic representative for feedback on new initiatives, assistance or other concerns.

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<th>Program</th>
<th>Name &amp; Email Address</th>
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You can find up-to-date information and events on our Facebook pages:

Graduate Studies: https://www.facebook.com/SUgradstudies
MBA: https://www.facebook.com/pages/Shepherd-University-MBA-Program/129546247194193.
Martinsburg Center: https://www.facebook.com/#!/MartinsburgCenter.
CSDA: https://www.facebook.com/ShepherdUniversityCSDA

Student News

Jose Moreno (CSDA, ’13). Following graduation, Jose continued at Shepherd in the role of Assistant Dean of Students. He recently became engaged to Rachel Crum who is currently serving as the Community Services and Service Learning Coordinator at Shepherd. In her position she connects students to non-profit agencies in the community and helps to plan campus wide community service initiatives such as Day of Service, Relay for Life, Alternative Spring Break and the Produce Drop. Rachel is planning to enter the CSDA program in the fall.

Darrell Johnson (CSDA, ’14). While at Shepherd, Darrell was an advisor in the TRiO Student Services Support program. Upon graduation, he was hired as an area coordinator in Student Affairs at York College in Pennsylvania.

Jonathan Calebretta (CSDA, ’10). Since December 2013, Jonathan is the Associate Governmental Program Analyst in the California Community Colleges System, working in the Chancellor’s Office. There he works
primarily with the Student Senate for California Community Colleges, but also the California Community College Student Affairs Association (CCCSAA) as their contact at the Chancellor’s Office. Some additional previous milestones to include: taught a 3 credit liberal arts course at the Academy of Art University on successful strategies to succeed at college for 2.5 years; served on the leadership team of California College Personnel Association; ran the LA and San Francisco full marathons in 2013.

Jonathan is active in professional organizations, and is serving on the ACPA Tampa Convention Planning Committee’s Special Events Team - working on CelebrACPA, CultureFest and Grad Prep Fair in tandem with a peer. He also serves on the ACPA Montreal Convention Planning Committee’s Special Events Team overseeing Opening and Closing.

On a personal note, Jonathan married his partner of four years, Daniel Powell in December 2014. Their wedding was announced in the New York Times here: http://www.nytimes.com/2014/12/14/fashions/weddings/jonathan-calabretta-daniel-powell.html?_r=0

Lastly they recently welcomed the arrival of their son Parker Joseph on January 19th! Congrats!

Molly Reed (MBA, ’14). Molly took a seasonal HR position with Macy’s distribution center in Martinsburg last October. She was brought on board to help hire 400 people.

From Molly: “The position has been very positive in a professional tool box way as well. I have been getting loads of employee relations experience and have gotten to work personally with the ER team for Macy’s. They each spent a week with us in December. I told them all about the experience in the MBA program. They were impressed that I had never done an HR role before and was really excelling there.

Also, all of the executive staff feedback has been positive. The best part has been seeing operations first hand. The MBA has more than made a difference in my understanding of what I do and who I place (in positions). I cannot thank you enough for the education I received in the program. Thank you for everything these last few years, with the MBA doors have been opening that never would have (in the past).”

Mike Golze is in his second year of the CSDA program.

My graduate assistantship gives me the opportunity to work with students every day; while I also have learned to balance life and work before going into an entry-level position. I was involved in the student side of Student Affairs through high school and college in the role of a resident assistant. If I could be a student forever I would be, and working in Student Affairs is the next best thing in my opinion. By working on a college campus I get to watch students grow and learn, it is a very exciting life transition to be a part of!

I was looking for Student Affairs programs in the Washington D.C./Baltimore region, and Shepherd University was mentioned by a friend of mine. After looking at the details of the program, it fit the criteria I was looking for and it is also close to home. The small cohort and small campus
environment allowed me to be able to work with many departments pretty easily. The practicum element of the program is also a great opportunity because I was able to try a department or campus that I would not have otherwise worked in.

Lorena Nathan (MBA’13) has been active in the surrounding community since her graduation from the MBA program. She has been able to register and open her own small business, and has worked tirelessly as an advocate for the Hispanic Community, helping to provide information and empowerment on a variety of issues, ranging from healthcare, immigration information, and discrimination. Lorena has partnered with the Shepherd University, American Public University and the Embassy of Mexico for a variety of workshops. Lorena reports that she is first Hispanic to become a member of the Jefferson County Board of Health, and “without doubt my MBA has opened [the door] a lot of opportunities and has enabled me to do the things I like.”

West Virginia Graduate Research Day – April 18, 2015 – Present Your Research

Sponsored by the West Virginia Association Of Graduate Schools (WVAGS) Information click HERE

**Calendar Dates to Remember**

2/27/15 Fri Last Day of Midterm Exams; Last Day to Apply for August and December 2015 Graduation (Registrar’s Office).
3/2/15 Mon Midterm Grades Due 9 a.m. Second-half semester classes begin.
3/13/15 Fri Last Day to Withdraw from a Full Semester Class--See Advisor by noon.
3/15/15 Sun First Day of Spring Recess.
3/22/15 Sun Last Day of Spring Recess.
3/23/15 Mon First Day of Summer 2015 RAIL Registration for Continuing Students, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
4/3/15 Fri Last Day to Withdraw from second-half semester class--See Advisor by noon.
4/6/15 Mon First Day of Fall 2015 RAIL Registration for Continuing Students, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
4/16/15 Thu First Day of Spring Weekend Recess (as needed, make-up days for inclement weather).
4/17/15 Fri Second Day of Spring Weekend Recess (as needed, make-up days for inclement weather).
4/24/15 Fri McMurran Scholars Convocation; Last Day of Classes; Last Day for Complete Withdrawal from Semester.
4/27/15 Mon First Day of Final Exams.
5/1/15 Fri Last Day of Final Exams.
5/4/15 Mon Second Semester Grades Due 9 a.m. End of Second Semester.
5/5/15 Tue Grades will be available via RAIL (tentative).
5/09/15 Sat Commencement.

**Next MBA Testing Date**

The next MBA MFT exam will take place on Thursday, March 19th at the Martinsburg Center from 5:30-8:00 pm.

Capstone Students in MBA 590 & 591 may register with Robin Murphy for the MBA Major Field Test (MFT).

Those requiring a standardized test to complete their admissions requirements should sign up with Robin Murphy for the undergraduate business MFT.

**EDPD Spring 2015 Schedule click HERE**

Graduation Application click HERE
Team River Runner student volunteer learns to guide blind veterans on kayak trips

A Shepherd University graduate education student who credits Team River Runner with his own personal recovery recently spent a week in Key Largo, Florida, helping veterans with vision loss improve their kayaking skills.

Christopher Price attended a Team River Runner Outtasight Leadership Clinic January 25-February 1, where he and other volunteers received leadership training and learned how to guide five blind or visually impaired veterans as they paddled a total of more than 30 miles in seven days.

“It was awesome to see visually impaired veterans out there in a boat,” Price said. “You just feel good when you can help people and especially in Team River Runner. Getting people in the water and watching them progress and grow, just from the simple act of putting them in a kayak for an hour, it’s huge.”

Price’s involvement with Team River Runner began when he joined the group while seeking treatment at the Martinsburg Veterans Affairs Medical Center. Price served a total of 12 years in the Air National Guard in both Ohio and Washington state and was deployed to the Middle East. He battled post-traumatic stress disorder, which he said manifested as an alcohol and drug problem.

The five-week Team River Runner program offered through Shepherd appealed to him because he’d always participated in river sports, and it was an opportunity to get away from the hospital for a while and into the local creeks and rivers.

“I can make a good argument for Team River Runner kind of saving my life,” Price said. “I’m not trying to blow it out of proportion. It’s had a huge impact on me. The whitewater accessibility and the network of people who volunteer with Team River Runner Shepherd—it was just inspirational to me and was huge in my personal recovery.”

Price is now a full-time Shepherd student majoring in secondary education with a goal of entering the Master of Arts in Teaching program. He would eventually like to become a health or physical education teacher. He’s also a volunteer with Shepherd’s Team River Runner. It’s his way to give back and to help other veterans.

“The paddling was just really paramount. It got me out of the isolation that I was in and it put me back into a community. It was really life-changing for me,” he said. “That’s the motivation for me, to get out there and continue to help others.”

Price, who lives in Harpers Ferry, said being chosen to attend the all-expenses-paid leadership and training clinic in Florida is an honor, and he comes back to Shepherd with skills he’ll be able to utilize as a volunteer with the TRR chapter here. Price is the third student from Shepherd, and the second veteran, selected to attend one of the national clinics.

Listen to the interview with Christopher Price here