Education

While the kids may have been celebrating the beginning of summer vacation, on June 1, a team from the Department of Education was found at the Lilly Conference on College and University Teaching and Learning. Drs. Dot Hively, LeAnn Johnson, B.B. Mitchell, Laura Porter, Georgiann Toole, and J.B. Tuttle gave a presentation entitled Using Program Curriculum Components to Create a Community of Learners. This well-received presentation provided specific examples of how communities of learners are created at Shepherd. Program components shared included use of the common reading, connections with the community at large to provide experiential learning, new faculty training and support, and suggestions for individual classroom practice.

Meanwhile Dr. Jennifer Penland was busy traveling across both state and nation in search of Native American stories for her multimedia grant from the West Virginia Humanities Council. This work captured the interest of a local fourth grade girl scout who is now working with Dr. Penland’s classes to collect school supplies for the Blackfoot Indian Reservation in Browning, Montana.

This fall brought new things to the department as well--two new grandbabies, a new department chair, and a new faculty member.

Dr. Laura Porter was selected to take Dr. Wright’s place as department chair when he announced his resignation to take a position at Mercer College in Pennsylvania. Dr. Porter’s hard work to meet the needs of both faculty and students has been appreciated as she assumed leadership in the department in August. She continues to serve as the Early Education Program Director and as the Director of Assessment and Accountability.

We also welcomed a new face with the addition of Dr. Karin Spencer to our department. Dr. Spencer specializes in early childhood special education and comes to us as from Fairfax, Virginia where she served as the Early Childhood Program Manager and taught as an adjunct at George Washington University. She is currently teaching classes both here on campus and at the Martinsburg Center.

Nursing Education

Dr. Michael Groves and Professor Tammy Bowers attended the 42nd Biennial Convention of the Nursing Honor Society – Sigma Theta Tau International in Indianapolis. Educational sessions included more than 800 presentations of original research and reports of technological advances and innovative programs in nursing leadership, clinical practice and nursing education. Today STTI has more than 130,000 members residing in 85 countries around the world representing 488 chapters at 668 institutions of higher education.

The 5th Annual Nursing Research Conference was held on November 7, 2013 in the Erma Ora Byrd Building Shepherdstown, West Virginia. Kudos to Dr. Laura Clayton for all of her work coordinating this annual event. All 70 of our Senior Level students presented posters. Professors Tammy Bowers and Amy Schaffer gave podium presentations. Poster Winners were Lindsey Funkhouser, who took first place in poster presentations with “Pet Therapy and Autistic Children.” Tiffany Sommer, placed second with “Benefits of Bedside Shift Report,” third was Jenna Lewin, with “Reiki Therapy in Arthritis Patients.” Scholarship Winners were Christopher Richards and Patricia Claude from Harpers Ferry. The amount of money raised for next year’s scholarships was over $1,000.00.

Dr. Bonnie Parker received a mini-grant from the Shepherd University Center for Teaching and Learning to coordinate a presentation via Skype, “To Write Love on Her Arms.” The non-profit organization founded in 2006 by Jamie Tworkowski is dedicated to presenting hope and to finding help for people struggling with depression, addiction, self-injury and suicide. Approximately 60 people attended the program including individuals from Residence Life, Shepherd Counseling Services and Nursing 340 Behavioral health, social work and the school of education students.

Professor Paula Donohue accompanied Junior Level students Mary Canby and Ashley Wolford to the National Student Nurses Association (NSNA) Mid-Year Conference in Louisville, KY. During the Conference the Career Development Center helped the students to plan their nursing career. Faculty advisors and consultants reviewed their résumé and discussed the primary steps for career advancement.

Professor Tammy Bowers, Dr. Laura Clayton, Professor Kathy Dilley, Professor Paula Donohue, Professor Barbara Kemerer attended the National League of Nurses (NLN) Education Summit 2013 “Raising the Roof/Advancing the Nation’s Health.” This was the conference of the year for nurse educators in all academic settings. National leaders recognized as champions of nursing discussed key policy issues that affect the role of nursing in a reformed health care system.

Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Sports

The HPERS department is offering a new class starting this spring. RECR 318, Adaptive Principles of Coaching, will focus on providing the students with the skills necessary to be effective coaches for a diverse population. Students that successfully complete this course will leave with four internationally recognized coaching and game management certifications. These will prove to be very beneficial for their professional portfolios. As a part of the course the students will have the opportunity to coach and work with coaches, athletes and games officials from the Jefferson County Special Olympics program. The HPERS staff and students are very much looking forward to building the relationship with the local Special Olympics program. For more information, please contact Malinda Quinlan, HPERS Professor and Director of Sports and Competition for Special Olympics at mquinlan@shepherd.edu.
Featured Professors

Dr. Georgiann H. Toole joined the SU Department of Education faculty in 2007. She is a Shepherd alumna (and McMurran Scholar), having received her undergraduate degree here before completing graduate studies at Shenandoah University and The University of North Carolina-Greensboro. Currently, she coordinates Shepherd’s Master of Arts in Teaching and Master of Arts in Curriculum and Instruction programs, as well as teaching graduate and undergraduate courses. She is active in both her teaching fields: Social Studies and Music. Last fall, Dr. Toole presented a session at the National Council for Social Studies national conference in Seattle, Washington, entitled Monumental Windows to the Past: Public Memorials, Teaching, and Learning. The session provided participants with skills, ideas, and resources for using monuments and other public commemorations to teach history, geography, and social sciences, and to integrate social studies instruction with writing and the arts. Dr. Toole has also worked with the Jefferson County Landmarks Commission to develop opportunities for Shepherd University students to incorporate the Commission’s sites and primary resources into educational materials for public school use. In October, Dr. Toole presented a session entitled Change Gonna Come: Integration of Music and Social Studies for Teaching Civil Rights Events and Issues, for the National Association for Music Educators conference in Nashville, Tennessee. As guest conductor for the 2013 high school honors chorus in Fauquier County, VA public schools, Dr. Toole led 85 high school singers in a performance which included her own arrangement of Stephen Foster’s Why Should the Red Rose Live Always, as well as works by Aaron Copland and Randall Thompson. She also served as adjudicator for the Washington County, MD Large Ensemble Festival, working with over 20 public school choral ensembles. Dr. Toole’s composition for mezzo-soprano and piano, Advent Triptych, was a winner in the New Voices Festival, a national competition sponsored by The Catholic University of American in Washington, DC. Her work was performed there in January. Over a dozen of her commissioned choral pieces were recorded last December by the chamber choir, Winchester Musica Viva for their latest CD, They Brought Christmas with Them: Traditional Seasonal Music of the Shenandoah Valley. Other works have been performed by the Voce Chamber Singers (Reston, VA), VocalPoint (professional quartet in northern Virginia), and The Princeton Singers. Her most recently commissioned work, Agnus Dei, for organ and choir, was premiered at the American Guild of Organists convention in July. She is the founder and director of the community choir Antietam Women’s Ensemble. During the McMurran Scholars Convocation in Spring 2013, Dr. Toole was given the Outstanding Teacher Award for Shepherd University.

Assistant Professor Mary Hancock joined the SU Department of Nursing Education this Fall 2013. Mary is currently a doctoral candidate with the University of Phoenix. Professor Hancock obtained her Master’s in Nursing Education from the University of Phoenix in 2007. Mary graduated with her Bachelor of Science in Nursing in 1987 from Virginia Commonwealth University’s Medical College of Virginia School of Nursing. Mary was certified by NAACOG currently known as the Association of Women’s Health, Obstetric, and Neonatal Nurses (AWHONN) in 1991. Mary began her nursing career in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. Mary has worked as a neonatal, labor and delivery, and high-risk ante partum nurse with her primary interest being high-risk pregnant women. Mary previously taught for the Bon Secours Richmond Health System’s Memorial College of Nursing. In addition to curriculum development, Mary mentors former students and colleagues. She has mentored three colleagues in their graduate projects and is currently mentoring two former students as they pursue careers in women’s health. Mary is actively involved in her professional nursing organization, AWHONN. She has held numerous leadership positions and represented the AWHONN Virginia Section at the 2009 Nurse in Washington Internship (NIWI). Mary is looking forward to working with the local AWHONN leaders in West Virginia. Mary and her husband Kyle will celebrate their 25th wedding anniversary in December. They have 21 year-old twin boys who are in college. Mary’s hobbies have been on hold during her doctoral program. She currently lives in the Charles Town area and is enjoying getting to know West Virginia.

Professor Desmond Lawless joined the SU Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Sports Department in Fall 2013. He was born and brought up in Stockwell, London and attended West Sussex Institute of Higher Education. Upon graduation he taught in Plymouth, England. Desmond always wanted to work abroad and took up a teaching position at St Andrew’s School in Nassau, Bahama. In 1986 he was selected to play for the Bahamas Olympic Soccer Team at the Central American and Caribbean Games in the Dominican Republic. After five years he returned to England and after one year was appointed Head of the Sanford English International School in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. While in Ethiopia, he coached each summer in the United States and eventually began his Masters at the University of Wisconsin Stout. Upon graduation Desmond began a coaching career that included positions at Heidelberg University, Kenyon College, and Shenandoah University. Outside of his professional interests in education, technology and coaching, he loves reading, modern world history, travel and following Tottenham Hotspur of the English premier league.

Departments in Action
Lauren Skinner, a senior in the Department of Education, is nearing the end of her goal to be a certified elementary education teacher with an additional endorsement in pre-kindergarten. This will be the first step in her ultimate desire to teach during the school year and run her own camp during the summers. Lauren is committed to community service and can be seen volunteering at just about every campus and community event where a person with a desire to help others is needed. She has served as the president of Habitat for Humanity, chaired the Relay for Life entertainment committee, and serves as a student ambassador. In addition she has served as a member of the homecoming committee and is on the Shepherd University dance team. Her influence as a leader for incoming first year students as an A-team peer leader has allowed her to pass her values of helping others to the next generation of Shepherd Students. When she is not on campus, she can often be seen supporting her hometown teams, the Baltimore Orioles and Baltimore Ravens.

Chris Richards, a 4th year Nursing Education student, is a member of the SU-Student Nurse Association, the National Student Nurse Association and the American Assembly for Men in Nursing. Chris came to Shepherd University in Spring 2010. He married his wife Michelle Jeanette Richards (House) on May 22, 2004. Michelle has her Master of Science in Biotechnology from Johns Hopkins University and is employed by Department of Defense USAFREID Fort Detrick, MD as a Laboratory Manager. Chris is the recipient of the 2013 Martinsburg Veterans Affairs Medical Center (VAMC) Excellence in Scholastic Achievement Award and a $300 scholarship. During the summer of 2013 Chris was named a VAMC VALOR Student. He spent 394 hours providing direct patient care to veterans in the ICU with preceptor Shirley Reed-Vazquez, BSN-RN. The level of nursing skill and knowledge obtain through the VALOR experience has helped to enhance his confidence as a future nursing professional. After graduation, Chris plans to seek employment as an RN in a facility that will invest in molding him into a proficient, competent and skilled nursing professional. He would like to return to Shepherd to tutor other nursing students and plans to seek an advanced degree as a Nursing Educator.

Brian Skinnell is a junior Sports Communications major at Shepherd University. He is the reigning HPERS Student of the Year and hopes to one day become a professional sports writer and broadcaster. On campus, Brian is very involved. He has served on the school newspaper as a beat writer for the football team, men's and women's basketball teams, as well as the baseball team. His sophomore year, Brian was the sports editor for the newspaper. On top of that, he is also the "Voice of the Rams" on 89.7 WSHC as the lead play-by-play broadcaster for Shepherd University sports at the campus radio station. Off campus, Brian is active in his field and is currently a writer and contributor at RantSports.com and Yahoo Sports where he covers a variety of topics including Washington DC sports. He has interviewed numerous professional athletes including, but not limited to, Philadelphia Eagles quarterback Michael Vick and Washington Redskins running back Alfred Morris. Brian is very involved in the department here at Shepherd, you can frequently find him conversing with teachers and coaches. He is also the student representative on the department's advisory board.

Welcome back to the Spring semester of the 2013-14 academic year. I want to thank the members of the Newsletter Committee for producing their fourth newsletter. It is amazing to read about some of the accomplishments in this newsletter of both the faculty and the students in all three departments. The following are a couple of examples for each department found in the newsletter:

**Education:** Our Outstanding Teacher for Shepherd University continues to be productive. It was great to read about our faculty (six) that presented at the Lilly Conference. Great strides have been made with the development of new and important curriculum programs.

**Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Sports:** The new course, RECR 318 will provide meaningful opportunities for their students especially with working with the local Special Olympics program. In addition, the faculty and staff have been working hard to prepare for the national accrediting team that will be on campus March 23-26.

**Nursing Education:** Congratulations to one of our featured students, Chris Richards. He was a member of the December (2013) graduating class and was the first to pass his boards. The 5th Nursing Research Conference was impressive with both faculty and students (seventy) presenting.

All three departments have made significant progress toward accomplishing the strategic priorities of the SOEPS Strategic Plan. Please go to the school website, www.shepherd.edu/sepsweb/ for the entire Strategic plan. I am confident we will be able to accomplish the majority of the priorities by December of 2016 (end of the five year plan). I wish all of you the best as you continue your dedication and hard work with teaching, scholarship and service. Each of you brings unique strengths to the SOEPS.