



School of Education and Professional Studies



SPRING 2015

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SOEPS NEWSLETTER

Department of Education

A lot has happened in the Department of Education in the year since our last school newsletter. Two individuals, Laura Porter and Dot Hively have moved to positions at other universities and Susan Lovell retired as the director of the Shepherd University Nursery School. While we miss those who are no longer sitting at the table with us, we are also excited to welcome new members to that table. Paulette Lashley has come onboard as the new director of our preschool. She is working on changing the name to the Early Learning Lab and Dori Hargrove has accepted a position teaching the elementary math, science and social studies pedagogy courses.

We would like to thank Lynne Hannah for her work as interim chair and we welcome Donna Hanlin, an able administrator from Washington County, MD, to share responsibilities with Georgiann Toole as co-chair and to work as our Director of Assessment and Accreditation in preparing for our upcoming accreditation review. We would also like to thank Doug Kennard for his many years of service as the Director of Teacher Education and welcome Belinda Mitchell to this position. Other new faces involve two new babies in the department. Our placement coordinator, Helen Baker, had a beautiful baby girl and LeAnn Johnson added her sixth grandchild.

Of particular note in our department is the work being done with the state Teacher Performance Assessment (TPA) Pilot Project. Shepherd student teachers were assigned to complete one of two assessments being considered for adoption and another cohort of student teachers is engaged in the process. We are proud of the hard work these students have put into their work. The feedback they provide will not only influence state policy but will also serve as a guide for the department once a TPA becomes consequential for certification.

Shepherd education students are outstanding in other ways as well. Shepherd's Delta Psi Chapter of the KDP International Honor Society in Education was notified that they will be receiving four awards at this year's biennial Convocation in Orlando while SESA continues to be active with activities such as fundraising events, providing pins for autism awareness, and presenting a lesson to South Jefferson Middle School students on Internet Safety.

Department of Nursing Education

In April, eight Shepherd University Student Nursing Association students travelled to the annual conference in Phoenix, Arizona, where they had an excellent poster presentation and represented Shepherd University beautifully. Joy Johnstone was awarded the "Spirit of Nursing" award in part due to her continuous dedication to the advancement of the student nursing association, where she served as both president and as a representative at multiple SNA conferences across the nation during her education at Shepherd.

Two wonderful professors retired from Shepherd faculty in May, Kathy Dilley and Barb Kemerer. Both continue to play a role despite being "retired" – they show true dedication to the nursing education department!

The DNP doctoral program at Shepherd University has been approved and already has 15 students enrolled. A special thank you to Dr. Scott Beard for being instrumental in the development of Shepherd's first doctoral program, as well as all of the nursing faculty and the members of the School of Education and Professional Studies.

We have many new faces in the nursing department including faculty and staff. Mrs. Karen Lewis-Dryden is our new Administrative Secretary and comes with a wealth of knowledge, having worked in a College Nursing Department in Salisbury, MD. Dr. Doris Burkey, Assistant Professor of Nursing; Professor Robin Hill, Clinical Skills Lab Coordinator; Dr. Mary Coyle, Assistant Professor of Nursing Education; Dr. Barbara Mott, Assistant Professor of Nursing; and Dr. Barbara Spencer, Assistant Professor of Nursing. All of them come prepared with various experiences and specialties.

Congratulations to Dr. Mary Hancock on earning her PhD! Dr. Hancock teaches Obstetrical and Women's Health Nursing.

Department of Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Sport

The HPERs Department had a new major approved, Health Promotion and Exercise Science, with the first freshman class starting this fall. Also, the Recreation and Leisure Studies program has a new name - Recreation and Sport Studies. The HPERs Summit was held in March. Many tristate professionals spoke in 30 minute sessions, which provided the opportunity for students to interact and discuss "a day in the life of a professional." There are 278 total students enrolled in HPERs majors; 132 of those students are also student-athletes participating on one of our 12 varsity athletics teams. Athletics plays a huge role in the HPERs department and we are excited to share in the successes that our students were able to attain. To begin, the Women's Basketball program, led by first-year head coach Jenna Eckerberry, was able to rebound from a 4-23 season just a year before to a 22-10 record and a share of the Mountain East Conference (MEC) regular season title. The success did not stop there as the Rams earned an at-large selection to the NCAA Tournament, went on the road to upset #2 seed in the region, 11th ranked team in the nation, Indiana University of Pennsylvania in the first round before falling to Bloomsburg University in the second round. Coach Eckerberry was named MEC Women's Basketball Coach of the Year, Shepherd Coach of the Year, MEC Women's Sports Coach of the Year, and All - Journal Athlete of the Year (J.A.Y.) Coach of the Year. As warmer weather came, our baseball program, led by 3rd year head coach Matt McCarty, put together an impressive regular season, including a record-setting 20-game win streak. The Rams went on to win the Mountain East Conference regular season with a 39-12 record and earn the #1 seed in the conference tournament where they would eventually fall in game two of the championship to West Virginia State University. The Rams finished the year ranked 27th in the Collegiate Baseball Poll while receiving multiple All-Region, All-American, and Academic All-American honors. The winning trend was shared by the lacrosse team, led by 4th year head coach Meghan Keelan. In the inaugural Mountain East Conference season for the lacrosse program, the Rams were able to attain a record of 12-5 and go undefeated against conference opponents to win the MEC regular season title and the ability to host the conference tournament. The Rams cruised through the tournament, winning the semi-final and final by a combined score of 37-5, to be crowned the inaugural MEC Women's Lacrosse Champions. The Rams were honored with numerous All-Conference honors as well as being named an Intercollegiate Women's Lacrosse Coaches Association (IWLCA) Honor squad for achieving over a 3.00 team GPA. All three championship teams were honored at halftime during our home football games.

Featured Professors

Mrs. Melissa Hall was born in Memphis, TN to a Navy family. Shortly after her birth the family moved to Virginia Beach and then finally to St. Mary's, MD where she grew up. Staying active in sports was always a focus, so at the age of four she started in Judo, then at age six she was one of the first females allowed to play Little League Baseball. She continued to play sports throughout her childhood and in high school she played field hockey, basketball, and softball. She started at Towson State University and was going to play softball, but due to injury left school after one year to run her family's sporting goods business.



Deciding she needed to finish her degree, she moved back to Baltimore and enrolled at the Community College of Baltimore County (CCBC). At the same time she started working full time for Second Home, Inc., a private non-profit therapeutic foster care agency that worked with individuals who were developmentally delayed, medically fragile, or emotionally disturbed. After a year as the Administrative Assistant she was asked to take over the recreation department. She received her AA degree in therapeutic recreation from CCBC and her BS and MA degrees in Recreation from Frostburg State University. After receiving her Master's degree she was asked to teach for CCBC and discovered her passion for teaching. She returned to school to take the needed classes to become a Certified Therapeutic Recreation Specialist and then started to teach part time for Frostburg. After 22 years with Second Home, Inc., she decided it was time to pursue teaching full time. It was with great excitement that she responded to an opening with Shepherd University for a full-time position with the Department of Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Sport, and even bigger joy when she started in August 2015. In spring 2016, she will start her Doctoral degree and hopes to have it completed by fall 2020. Mrs. Hall loves to stay active and enjoys golf, hiking, camping, and most of all traveling. Her new leisure and recreation goal is to visit all 58 national parks in the United States. She has a long way to go.

Doris Burkey is new to Shepherd faculty but not new to nursing; she has had a passion for nursing that spans over several decades. She earned her doctorate of nurse practitioner and has practiced in women's health and family care. She currently is teaching at both the undergraduate and graduate level in the nursing program at Shepherd University. Dr. Burkey's passion for nursing began out of the most tragic of circumstances; she lost her 11 month old son to viral meningitis. After that, she was determined to help make a difference in the lives and health of others. She decided to become a registered nurse and says the most rewarding thing about her job has been helping people. One of the hardest things she has done is provide care to patients with terminal diseases like cancer. When not teaching nurses or providing healthcare to patients, Dr. Burkey loves to read and vacation to new places. She is well known in the nursing department already for her quick smile and friendly disposition. Some other favorites of Dr. Burkey include the season of autumn, Christmas, soft rock music, and she loves pizza and spaghetti. Dr. Burkey has some advice for nursing students and those that have already become nurses: it is often a very hard profession and it takes everything you have, but it is so very worth it to see the difference you've made in the lives of others. Dr. Burkey is definitely living by her own advice and we are thrilled to have her at Shepherd University!



Dr. Karin Spencer is an Assistant Professor and Early Education Specialization Coordinator in the Department of Education. She teaches special education and early education courses and supervises field experiences. Karin earned her BA from the College of William and Mary where she met her husband of 23 years, Rich. Karin and Rich settled in Northern Virginia. They live now in Loudoun County, just over the river and through the woods from Shepherd University. Karin continued her education at George Washington University. She has a master's degree in early childhood special education with a focus on inclusive practice and her doctoral degree in Special Education, including a focus on behavioral/mental health.



Karin came to Shepherd University with 20 years of experience in the field of early childhood education as a practitioner, program administrator, and teacher educator. Her experience includes directing three personnel preparation and training grants at George Washington University and serving as an education manager and mental health coordinator for a large Early Head Start/Head Start program. Karin also served as the Director of Head Start Body Start National Center for Physical Development and Outdoor Play, a national training and technical assistance center. Karin has several years of experience teaching early intervention and early childhood courses in development, curriculum, family support, and mental health at the masters and advanced graduate level. Karin is excited to be leading the new BA in early education at Shepherd and says that students are "highly engaged." She notes that "many students in the early education classes already have experience in the field, which enriches class discussions and learning for all students."

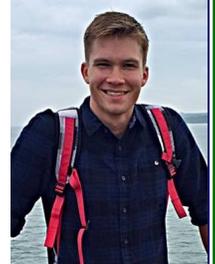
In May 2015, Karin received the Outstanding Faculty Award for Scholarship. She has made numerous national presentations including topics such as inclusive practice, diversity, physical activity, and resilience. She appreciates the opportunities she has had to collaborate with other faculty on presentations and committees. Last year Karin had two articles and a professional development guide published about outdoor play. This fall a chapter she co-wrote with a colleague will be published in a book focused on diversity in early childhood. Karin is excited to be partnering with the new director of the Early Learning Lab (formerly the Shepherd University Nursery School) to further develop the early education program and field experiences.

Student Spotlight

After a 5 year break, Jessica Emmons is now back at Shepherd as an MAT student working towards teacher certification to accompany her 2008 B.S. in Chemistry with a minor in Mathematics . During those intervening years she worked hard as a baker and cake decorator while raising her daughter as a single parent. Her family is now larger with the addition of her husband, the love of her life, and his two children. Her decision to return to Shepherd was inspired by the passing of her father, a man who achieved much and had great influence on others as a lifelong teacher. She honors him with her own excellence as noted by a 4.0 GPA. Currently she works with Relay for Life and is serving as an officer in Kappa Delta Pi responsible for organizing, managing and creating events to raise money to support professional development opportunities for teacher candidates. In Berkeley Springs she stays busy as a Substitute Teacher, Girl Scout Leader, and volunteer for many organizations. She anticipates student teaching and then having her own classroom in 2016.



Matthew Deal is a senior at Shepherd University. He will be graduating in May 2016 with a Bachelor of Science in Recreation and Sport Studies with a concentration in Sports Marketing. He is from Hagerstown, MD and is a graduate of Smithsburg High School. Matthew is currently the Student Representative for the HPERS Department. He is also a member of the Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi and is also active in the Commission on Sport Management Accreditation (COSMA). Matthew has been awarded the Student Leadership award in 2015, Vince Gonino award in 2014, and was named Outstanding Student in Sports Marketing for both 2013 & 2014. Matthew spent the summer in a study abroad program at the University of Stirling in Scotland where he studied marketing and interned at the University of Stirling Sports Center. He is currently looking to fulfill his internship requirement to complete his degree next semester and plans to become involved in marketing for a ski resort or action sports company after graduation.



Matthew "C.J." Gainey is a Level 3 student in the Shepherd University Nursing Program. C.J. is a shining example of what hard work and determination can do. Never one to brag, instead he kindly and humbly supports his fellow students and the patients he cares for. He is a husband, a father, and an Emergency Department technician at Berkeley Medical Center while attending Shepherd full-time. C.J. has overcome difficult obstacles in his past to return to college and seek his degree. His advice to other students is "don't give up - look to the future and your personal and professional goals." He is supported and encouraged by his wife and 3 children. He also believes in wellness. Finding time for himself in healthy ways, such as going for a jog, is very therapeutic and keeps him centered and focused. C.J. plans on becoming a ICU nurse/ER nurse over the next 4 -5 years and then becoming a flight nurse. He is set to graduate in May 2016.



Dean's Corner

Much has been accomplished as we prepare for the 2015-2016 academic year. Your continued progression and hard work with the school's strategic priorities has been invaluable. We have now completed 4 years of our strategic five year plan and I am confident that we will meet all of our priorities by December 2016. Have a great semester.

VISION STATEMENT

"To be recognized as a School of nationally accredited programs that inspires exemplary leaders."

MISSION STATEMENT

"The School of Education and Professional Studies embraces a strong liberal arts foundation while preparing students to be leaders in their respective professions."

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES COMPLETED

- #1. Incorporate "LEAP" goals into all curriculum (II-1)
- #2. Be a strong advocate in promoting university wellness initiatives (VI-1)
- #3. Acquire and/or maintain credentials as three Nationally Accredited Programs (II-2)
- #7. All three departments develop a defined faculty mentoring program for new faculty and adjuncts (I-5)
- #9. Continually improve assessment plans (II-3)
- #10. Maintain communication and cooperation among departments in SOEPS (III-1)
- #11. Encourage participation in department and school meetings (III-2)
- #13. Develop and enhance departmental advisory boards (V-1)
- #14. Increase the percentage of faculty who publish in peer-reviewed journals by 5% (IV-1)
- #15. Increase the percentage of faculty who participate in external grants by 5% (IV-2)
- #16. Develop and implement programs to provide international opportunities and/or multi-cultural and diverse opportunities for students, faculty and staff (II-4)
- #17. Host at least one state or regional conference (V-2)
- #18. Enhance the SOEPS website (III-3)
- #19. Encourage online form-sharing for curriculum and program changes (III-4)
- #20. Improve aesthetic appearances and create a welcoming environment in all three departments (I-4)

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES IN PROGRESS

- #4. Increase the number of faculty, staff and students with diverse backgrounds (I-2)
- #5. Develop a comprehensive marketing plan (I-1)
- #6. Improve retention rates for students, faculty and Staff (I-3)
- #8. All three departments develop student recruitment programs (I-6)
- #12. Develop and enhance new Graduate Programs in all three departments (II-5)

Shepherd
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