Please join me in welcoming the following new faculty to the Shepherd community. We are welcoming 20 new full-time faculty members to our midst. Several receptions are planned throughout the fall semester to allow them to be introduced formally but please take the time to introduce yourself should you see them in your travels about campus. Below is a brief biographical statement for each new faculty member.

**Dr. Benjamin Bankhurst**

Dr. Benjamin Bankhurst, from London, UK, has been appointed assistant professor of history in the department of history. Dr. Bankhurst received a bachelor of arts degree in history (2003) from the University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, New Mexico; a master of arts degree in early modern history (2005) and a Ph.D. in history (2011) from King’s College London.

Prior to coming to Shepherd, Dr. Bankhurst was a guest teacher of history at the London School of Economics; a visiting lecturer of history at King’s College London; a visiting lecturer of history at Canterbury Christ Church University; and a visiting lecturer of history at Florida State University, London Centre.

**Dr. James Broomall**

Dr. James Broomall, from Fernandina Beach, Florida, has been appointed assistant professor of history and director of the civil war center in the department of history. Dr. Broomall received a bachelor of arts degree in history and American history (2000) from the University of Delaware in Newark; a master of art degree in history and museum studies (2006) from the University of North Carolina in Greensboro; and a Ph.D. in history (2011) from the University of Florida in Gainesville.

Prior to coming to Shepherd, Dr. Broomall was a visiting assistant professor of history at Virginia Tech; a visiting assistant professor and an assistant professor of history at the University of North Florida in Jacksonville.

**Dr. Doris Burkey**

Dr. Doris Burkey, from Berkeley Springs, West Virginia, has been appointed assistant professor of nursing education in the department of nursing education. Dr. Burkey received an associate of science degree in nursing (1988) from Shepherd University; a bachelor of science degree in nursing (1997) from the University of Maryland at Baltimore; a master of science degree in family nurse practitioner program (2003) from the University of Maryland at Baltimore; and a doctor of nurse practice (2014) from West Virginia University in Morgantown.
Prior to coming to Shepherd, Dr. Burkey was a senior lecturer/obstetrical clinical instructor at West Virginia University School of Nursing in Morgantown and an adjunct professor in obstetrics and gynecology clinical at Shepherd University.

Dr. Mary Coyle

Dr. Mary Coyle, from Washington, DC, has been appointed assistant professor of nursing education in the department of nursing education. Dr. Coyle received a bachelor of science degree in nursing (1975) from Boston College in Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts; a master of science degree in nursing (1977) from Rutgers, in New Brunswick, New Jersey; and a doctor of philosophy degree in nursing (2009) from The Catholic University of America, in Washington, DC.

Prior to coming to Shepherd, Dr. Coyle was Chair of the LPN nursing program at Berkshire Community College, in Pittsfield, Massachusetts and an assistant professor of mental health nursing at Marymount University in Arlington, Virginia.

Mr. David Gansz

Mr. David Gansz, from Yellow Springs, Ohio, has been appointed dean of library and lecturer/associate librarian in the libraries and information sciences. Mr. Gansz received a bachelor of arts degree in art history (1982) from Bard College in Annandale-on-Hudson, New York; a master of fine arts degree in writing (1985) from The Milton Avery Graduate School, Bard College, in Annandale-on-Hudson, New York; and a master of information and library studies (1993) from the University of Michigan, in Ann Arbor.

Prior to coming to Shepherd, Mr. Gansz was vice president, information technology (CIO), associate vice president, academic information and technology, and dean, learning support and information systems at Edison State Community College in Piqua, Ohio; director of the library, archives, and media technology services at Wilmington College, in Ohio; and a director of the library and archives, and associate professor at Naropa University in Boulder, Colorado.

Dr. Mohammadreza Ghahremani

Dr. Mohammadreza Ghahremani, from Windsor Mill, Maryland, has been appointed assistant professor of computer engineering in the department of computer sciences, mathematics, and engineering. Dr. Ghahremani received a bachelor of science degree in electrical engineering (1998) from Azad University in Tehran, Iran; a master’s of science degree in computer engineering (2000) from Sharif University of Technology in Tehran; and a Ph.D. degree in electrical and computer engineering (2013) from The George Washington University, in Washington, DC.

Prior to coming to Shepherd, Dr. Ghahremani was a graduate teaching assistant at The George Washington University and a lecturer at Sharif University of Technology, in Tehran Iran.

Dr. Jonathan Gilkerson

Dr. Jonathan Gilkerson from San Diego, California, has been appointed assistant professor of biology in the department of biology. Dr. Gilkerson received a bachelor of science degree in molecular biology/physiology (2004) from Marshall University in Huntington, West Virginia and a Ph.D. in plant biology (2011) from the University of California-Davis.
Prior to coming to Shepherd, Dr. Gilkerson was an adjunct professor of biology at the University of San Diego, in California; a teaching assistant of metabolism and energetics, introductory biology, survey of diversity within the plant, Protista, and fungi kingdoms at University of California-Davis.

Ms. Melissa Hall

Ms. Melissa Hall, from Clarksville, Maryland, has been appointed assistant professor of recreation studies in the department of health, physical education, recreation and sports. Ms. Hall received an associate of applied science degree in therapeutic recreation (2004) from The Community College of Baltimore County in Catonsville, Maryland; a bachelor of science degree in recreation and parks management (2004) and a master of science degree in recreation and parks resource management (2007) from Frostburg State University in Maryland.

Prior to coming to Shepherd, Ms. Hall was an adjunct faculty member in recreation at The Community College of Baltimore County, in Catonsville, Maryland and Frostburg State University in Maryland.

Dr. Donna Hanlin

Dr. Donna Hanlin, from Hagerstown, Maryland, has been appointed visiting director of accountability/assessment and co-chair of the education department in the department of education. Dr. Hanlin received a bachelor of arts degree in elementary education (1977) from Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana; a master of education degree in education (1984) from Salisbury State University in Maryland; and a doctor of education degree (2014) from the University of Maryland in College Park.

Prior to coming to Shepherd, Dr. Hanlin was an adjunct professor in curriculum and instruction at Frostburg University in Maryland and Associate Superintendent and Chief Academic Officer of the Washington County schools.

Dr. Dori Hargrove

Dr. Dori Hargrove, from Chantilly, Virginia, has been appointed assistant professor of education in the department of education. Dr. Hargrove received a bachelor of science degree in industrial technology (1986) from Missouri State University in Springfield; a master of education degree in curriculum and instruction (2004) from Marymount University in Arlington, Virginia; a master of education leadership degree in mathematics specialist leader (2010), and a Ph.D. degree in mathematics education leadership (2015) from George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia.

Prior to coming to Shepherd, Dr. Hargrove was an adjunct professor in the department of mathematical sciences and the college of education and human development at George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia.

Ms. Robin Hill

Ms. Robin Hill, from Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, has been appointed clinical skills and simulation lab coordinator/clinical lecturer in the department of nursing education. Ms. Hill received an associate of science degree in nursing (1997) from Shepherd University; a bachelor of science degree in nursing (2013), and a master of science in nursing (2014) from Western Governors University in Salt Lake City, Utah.
Prior to coming to Shepherd, Ms. Hill was a supplemental instructional specialist for RN-BSN students at Hagerstown Community College in Maryland.

Mr. Alexander Hoekstra
Mr. Alexander Hoekstra, from Martinsburg, West Virginia, has been appointed lecturer/head volleyball coach in the athletic program. Mr. Hoekstra received a bachelor of science degree in business administration (2010), from Mount Olive College, College of Business in North Carolina and a master of arts degree in kinesiology/psychology (2015) from Western New Mexico University in Silver City.

Prior to coming to Shepherd he was the assistant volleyball coach at Western New Mexico University in Silver City. He was Shepherd’s assistant volleyball coach in 2014.

Ms. Shatora Lane
Ms. Shatora Lane, from Stephen City, Virginia, has been appointed lecturer/head athletics trainer in the athletic program. Ms. Lane received a bachelor of science degree in exercise science (2012) and a master of science degree in athletic training (2014) from Shenandoah University in Winchester, Virginia.

Prior to coming to Shepherd, Ms. Lane was the athletic trainer at Winchester Physical Therapy and Sports Medicine. She was the assistant athletic trainer at Shepherd University in 2014.

Ms. Paulette Lashley
Ms. Paulette Lashley, from Shenandoah Junction, West Virginia, has been appointed lecturer/nursery school director in the department of education. Ms. Lashley received an associate of applied science degree in early childhood (1995) from Frederick Community College, in Maryland; a bachelor of arts degree in elementary education (2000) from Shepherd University; and a master of arts degree in special education (2004) from West Virginia University in Morgantown.

Prior to coming to Shepherd, Ms. Lashley was an assistant director at La Petite Academy, in Frederick, Maryland; a head start child development and disability specialist at RESA 8 Early Head Start/Head Start, in Martinsburg; and an adjunct in the department of education at Shepherd University.

Dr. Mark Lesser
Dr. Mark Lesser, from Syracuse, New York, has been appointed assistant professor of biology in the department of biology. Dr. Lesser received a bachelor of arts degree in history (1995) from the University of King’s College in (Dalhousie), Halifax, Nova Scotia; he received a honours bachelor of science degree and a master’s of science degree in forestry (2003 and 2005) from Lakehead University in Thunder Bay, Ontario; and a Ph.D. in ecology (2011) from the University of Wyoming, in Laramie, Wyoming.

Prior to coming to Shepherd, Dr. Lesser was a teaching assistant of forest genetics, biometrics and analysis of experimental design, cultivation of edible fungi, evolution, and general biology at the University of Wyoming and Lakehead University; he taught or gave guest lectures at Syracuse University, Onondaga Community College, evolution at the University of Wyoming, and the State University of New York – College of Environmental Science and Forestry.
Dr. Barbara Mott

Dr. Barbara Mott, from Lewisberry, Pennsylvania, has been appointed assistant professor of nursing education in the department of nursing education. Dr. Mott received an associate of arts degree in general studies (1987), from the Community College of Baltimore County in Essex, Maryland; a bachelor of science degree in nursing (1990) and a master of science degree in nursing (2010) from Towson University, in Maryland; and a doctor of philosophy degree in nursing science (2014) from New Mexico State University, Las Cruces, New Mexico.

Prior to coming to Shepherd, Dr. Mott was an adjunct faculty member at York College of Pennsylvania.

Dr. James Pate III

Dr. James Pate III, from Shepherdstown, West Virginia, has been appointed visiting assistant professor of English in the department of English and modern languages. Dr. Pate received a bachelor of arts degree in English (1996) and a master of arts degree in English (1998) from the University of Memphis, in Tennessee; a master of fine arts degree in creative writing (2000) from the University of Iowa in Iowa City; and a doctor of philosophy degree in English (2009) from the University of Illinois at Chicago.

Prior to coming to Shepherd, Dr. Pate was a teaching assistant in the department of English at the University of Iowa; a teaching assistant in the department of English at the University of Illinois at Chicago; and an adjunct in the department of English and modern languages at Shepherd for the past four years.

Dr. Brian Santana

Mr. Brian Santana, from Pooler, Georgia, has been appointed lecturer of English in the department of English and modern languages. Dr. Santana received a bachelor of art degree in Dramatic Literature (2003) from The University of North Carolina at Asheville; a master of art degree in English (2005) from North Carolina State University in Raleigh; and a Ph.D. in American Studies (2012) from The George Washington University in Washington, DC.

Prior to coming to Shepherd, Dr. Santana was a lecturer of English at Georgia Southern University in Statesboro and an instructor/graduate teaching assistant of English at North Carolina State University in Raleigh.

Dr. Barbara Spencer

Dr. Barbara Spencer, from Frederick, Maryland, has been appointed assistant professor of nursing education in the department of nursing education. Ms. Spencer received a bachelor of science degree in nursing (1999) and a master of science degree in nursing (2003) from the University of Maryland Baltimore. She has a doctor of nursing practice (2015) from Rocky Mountain University of Health Professions.

Prior to coming to Shepherd, Dr. Spencer was an adjunct faculty member at the University of Maryland, Shady Grove campus in Rockville and an adjunct faculty member at Frederick Community College in Maryland.

Mr. Christopher Wilson

Mr. Christopher Wilson, from New Haven, Connecticut, has been appointed lecturer of English in the department of English and modern languages. Mr. Wilson received a bachelor of
art degree in English literature and philosophy (2002) and a master of art degree in English literature (2005) from Southern Connecticut State University in New Haven; and is ABD in English literature at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Prior to coming to Shepherd, Mr. Wilson taught English at Middlesex Community College, Central Connecticut State University, the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Southern Connecticut State University, and Quinnipiac University.