Marshall faculty member a finalist for professor of the year

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The Herald-Dispatch

HUNTINGTON -- A Spanish professor at Marshall University is one of five finalists for the Faculty Merit Foundation of West Virginia's 2010 Professor of the Year award.

Maria Carmen Riddel, a tenured professor who has taught at Marshall for 27 years, is a native of Spain. She came to Huntington more than 40 years ago and has taken students to Madrid for the past 21 years.

Riddel also received Marshall's Hedrick Award in 2010, which is the highest award for outstanding faculty at the university. Marshall submits the Hedrick Award winner to the state pool for Professor of the Year.

"Being a finalist for the West Virginia Professor of the Year is a great honor which pleases me and humbles me simultaneously," Riddel said. "I am surrounded by individuals who work hard and successfully and who deserve the recognition as much as I do.

"The goal in my life has been to bring together my two worlds, Spain and West Virginia," she said. "I consider myself very fortunate and I am grateful to Marshall University, not only for having afforded me the opportunity to transmit my language and my culture of origin to the young men and women of this state, but also for so explicitly and generously acknowledging my enthusiasm and my effort."

Other finalists include Albert R. Buckelew Jr., Ph.D., biology professor, Bethany College; Robert O. Rupp, Ph.D., history and political science professor, West Virginia Wesleyan College; Edward McKinley Snyder, Ph.D., geology professor, Shepherd University; and John Taylor, Ed.D., education professor, Glenville State College.

Interviews with the five candidates were Jan. 21. The finalists will be honored at a March 1 reception and banquet in Charleston, where the 2010 Professor of the Year will be announced. The 2010 Professor of the Year will receive a $10,000 cash award.

The Faculty Merit Foundation was created in 1984 to provide a means to recognize and reward innovation and creativity among the faculties of West Virginia's public and private colleges and universities. Through the Professor of the Year program, the outstanding achievements of those individuals are brought to the attention of the general public. A $10,000 cash award is given to the candidate selected as Professor of the Year, with smaller awards to the other finalists. The Professor of the Year award is presented with financial support from United Bank.
SHEPHERDSTOWN, W.Va. — Sheridan Webb has been named to the dean’s list for the fall semester at Shepherd University.

Sheridan is a graduate in the inaugural class at the Barbara Ingram School for the Arts in Hagerstown. She is majoring in psychology.

She is pursuing her vocal and acting interests, including an upcoming role in “Candide,” which is scheduled this month at the university.
Trevor Appleby, a 2008 graduate of Chambersburg Area Senior High School, made the dean’s list at Shepherd University, Shepherdstown, W.Va.

A junior, he plays baseball for Shepherd and recently earned the Commissioner's Honor Roll for WV Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.

His parents are Tammy Umbrell and Terry Appleby, both of Chambersburg.
Shepherd's Common Reading Program presents documentary February 17

... ) Shepherdstown, WV--Shepherd University’s Common Reading Program, in conjunction with the book “Survival of the Prettiest,” will present the documentary “Skin Deep: Beauty In a Jar,” Thursday, February 17 at 7 p.m. in the Robert C. Byrd Center for Legislati...
Shepherd professor nominated for 2010 state honor

SHEPHERDSTOWN – Ed Snyder, director of the Institute of Environmental and Physical Sciences and professor of environmental studies at Shepherd University, was recently nominated as one of five finalists for the Faculty Merit Foundation of West Virginia’s 2010 Professor of the Year honor.

Snyder, who joined Shepherd’s staff in 1986, earned his Ph.D. from the University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana. He was named Teacher of the Year at Shepherd in 1991.

Snyder developed the environmental studies program at Shepherd in 1994. The program was implemented as a major course of study in 1997. He has secured many grants for Shepherd and said that it’s worthwhile for him to see resources come to Shepherd’s campus.

“That to me is the reward and recognition – when you see students gain and do things they wouldn’t have if we hadn’t brought resources to campus; that is the fun part,” Snyder said. “Shepherd is easy to represent. We have great students and staff and many great things to show off. The potential here is something that has always been amazing to me. Shepherd has always encouraged creativity.”

The Faculty Merit Foundation was started to recognize and reward excellence in higher education at private and public colleges in the state. Candidates are nominated by their students and colleagues in the fall. The board of directors of the Faculty Merit Foundation met in December to begin screening the applicants. Final candidates were interviewed by the board in January. The five finalists will be honored at a March reception and banquet in Charleston where the 2010 Professor of the Year will be announced.

The award winner receives a $10,000 cash prize, with smaller awards to the other finalists. The Professor of the Year award is presented with financial support from United Bank.

Snyder said he is in good company along with past professors who have been finalists and recipients of the award. Previous Shepherd honorees of the award include Dr. Scott Brown and Dr. Jerry Thomas, finalists in 2009 and 2007, and Dr. Sylvia Bailey Shubert and Dr. Linda Tate, winners in 2006 and 2004.
Shepherd University will be hosting the Johns Hopkins University Engineering Innovation (EI) program this summer. The program, designed for high school juniors and seniors, is a five day a week, monthlong course in engineering offered July 5 through July 29.

EI is an intensive summer program that gives high school students an opportunity to explore the field of engineering through college-level lectures, hands-on labs, individual and team projects, and practical application of math, science, and engineering concepts. Students who pass the course will receive three college credit hours from Johns Hopkins University that will transfer to Shepherd or other approved higher learning institutions.

The EI course at Shepherd will be taught by Reza Mirdamadi, chair of the Department of Computer Sciences, Mathematics, and Engineering. Shepherd is the first institution in West Virginia to collaborate with Johns Hopkins University.

Mirdamadi said that the course is a good transition for students who are interested in pursuing careers in engineering.

Students should have completed the following prerequisites: algebra II and knowledge of trigonometry, as well as a successful completion of biology, chemistry, or physics. Knowledge of a spreadsheet application, such as Microsoft Excel, is also recommended.

The application fee for the program is $55 and tuition is $2,000. Need-based scholarships are available. Applications are available online at http://engineering-innovation.jhu.edu.

SU research forum to focus on preterm birth

Shepherd University’s Faculty Research Forum will be held Thursday, February 24 at 4 p.m. in the Robert C. Byrd Center for Legislative Studies with “The Lived Experience of the African American Pregnancy that Ends in Preterm Birth,” presented by Dr. Clarise Ottley, Department of Nursing.

Dr. Ottley’s purpose behind the study was to grasp the essential meaning of the experience of the African American pregnancies that end in preterm birth. In order to provide an understanding of these experiences, Dr. Ottley reviewed specific concepts that emphasized intergenerational influences on participants. These three concepts, memes, Intergenerational Transmission (IGT) of Parenting, and Intergenerational Epigenetic Inheritance (IGEI), closely aligned with the themes that emerged from the study and provided a glimpse of the complexities which may surround the African American pregnancy.

Other Shepherd Faculty Research Forums to be held this spring are “Not Your Grandfather’s Orchestra Concert: How South America is revitalizing today’s classical music scene” presented by Dr. Mark McCoy, Department of Music, Thursday March 3 at 7 p.m. in the Frank Center’s Walker Horton Shipley Recital Hall, and “Teresa Teng: From Asia’s Diva to YouTube Sensation” presented by Dr. David Gordon, Department of History, Thursday, April 14 at noon in the Scarborough Library room 256.

For more information about the Shepherd Faculty Research Forum, visit http://www.shepherd.edu/aaweb/frf/.
SU Common Reading Program to present documentary

Shepherd University's Common Reading Program, in conjunction with the book "Survival of the Prettiest," will present the documentary "Skin Deep: Beauty In a Jar," Thursday, February 17 at 7 p.m. in the Robert C. Byrd Center for Legislative Studies.

The film explores the history of beauty in American culture. It discusses how the ideal of beauty has changed over time as well as exploring the social, racial, and sexual aspects of the beauty industry.

The documentary reveals how advertisers have tapped into the hopes and desires of the average woman to create a large and influential industry. Audience discussion will follow the film and will be led by Lillian Phipps from the Center for Legislative Studies. The event is free and open to the public. For more information, contact Shannon Holliday at 304-876-5461.

Shepherd to participate in College Goal Day

Shepherd University has been selected as one of 18 locations around West Virginia to participate in College Goal Day, a nationwide outreach initiative funded by the YMCA on February 13. The program provides information to current and potential students who need assistance filling out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) free of charge to students and families.

Volunteers from Shepherd's Office of Financial Aid and Office of Admissions, as well as Blue Ridge Community and Technical College's financial aid office and the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) will be on hand to answer questions and help those who attend.

Sandra Bennett, director of financial aid at Shepherd, said that the event is an opportunity for students and families to get their questions answered on the college admissions process from financial aid and tax experts.

No registration is required. Those interested in getting help filling out their FAFSA should bring their 2010 tax returns, if completed, or W-2 forms and their 2009 tax information.

Students who attend a workshop at one of the locations will be entered for a chance to win an Apple iPad.

The event will be held at White Hall rooms 204 and 209 from 1 to 4 p.m. The event will be held on February 20 in case of inclement weather. Visit www.cfwv.com for more information.

SU Wind Ensemble to perform in concert

The highly acclaimed Shepherd University Wind Ensemble will perform on Friday, February 18 at 8 p.m. at the Frank Arts Center. Free with admission is a pre-concert lecture describing the works beginning at 7 p.m. A great way to derive even more enjoyment from the performance, the audience is invited to spend an hour with the conductor and the ensemble learning about and hearing excerpts from the music to follow.

Admission and seating for the Wind Ensemble concert is on a first come-first serve basis and advance sales or reservations are not available. The box office will open one hour prior to each performance. General admission is $10, $5 for students 18 and under, and free to Shepherd students with Rambler ID and Friends of Music MAC Card holders. For more information call 304-876-5555 or visit www.shepherd.edu/musicweb.
FAFSA help to be offered to state students

BY MEGAN FISHER
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

SHEPHERDSTOWN — For some people, completing a Free Application for Federal Student Aid can be just as daunting as completing tax forms, but they can find help at College Goal Sunday this weekend in Shepherdstown.

The event will provide financial aid experts to help families complete the FAFSA and explore additional financial aid sources that may be available. The second College Goal Sunday is hosted by the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission at 18 locations throughout the state, and the local program will be held in White Hall on the Shepherd University campus from 1 to 4 p.m. Sunday.

“We are extremely pleased to offer this opportunity for our students and families to receive personalized, one-on-one support in navigating the financial aid application process,” said Adam Green, director of student success and P-20 initiatives.

The free event is open to all students planning to attend school next fall, including returning students. Preregistration is recommended but not required.

“Completing the FAFSA is a big hurdle for those who need financial help,” said Jessica Kennedy, communications manager for HEPC.

“It’s a nice opportunity for students and families to sit down with an aid professional and discuss their options.” Participants should bring a driver’s license, both the student’s and parent’s Social Security numbers, 2010 tax records (or 2009 records if 2010 forms are not yet available), 2010 untaxed income records and information about investments and bank account balances.

Cost: Free

See FAFSA B3

AFSA FROM PAGE B1

In addition, participants will be entered into a drawing to win one of 18 Apple iPads being given away across the state. The event also will offer free income tax preparation services through a partnership with the West Virginia Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program.

More information is available at www cfww com or by calling Kennedy at 304 558 0655.

— Staff writer Megan Fisher can be reached at 304 263 3381, ext 132, or mfisher@journal news net
University to participate in College Goal Day Sunday

Shepherd University has been selected as one of 18 locations around West Virginia to participate in College Goal Day, a nationwide outreach initiative funded by the YMCA on Sunday. The program provides information to current and potential students who need assistance filling out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) free of charge to students and families.

Volunteers from Shepherd’s Office of Financial Aid and Office of Admissions, as well as Blue Ridge Community and Technical College’s financial aid office and the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) will be on hand to answer questions and help those who attend. The event is an opportunity for students and families to get their questions answered on the college admissions process from financial aid and tax experts.

No registration is required. Those interested in getting help filling out their FAFSA should bring their 2010 tax returns, if completed, or W-2 forms and their 2009 tax information. Students who attend a workshop at one of the locations will be entered for a chance to win an Apple iPad.

The event will be held at White Hall, Rooms 204 and 209 from 1 to 4 p.m. The event will be held on Feb. 20 in case of inclement weather. Visit www.cfvs.com for more information.

Special election date is finally set

On Feb. 7, Acting Gov. Earl Ray Tomblin signed the bill authorizing a special election for governor. This was the 27th day of our 60 calendar day regular session. The primary will be held on May 14 and the general election Oct. 4. The former is a Saturday and the latter a Tuesday. We took almost the first half of our regular session to agree on these dates. Now that we’ve settled the matter I hope we can get down to the real business of the session.

We will elect a governor on Oct. 4 who will serve until January of 2014. We will again elect a governor in November of 2012. That governor will take office in January of 2013. We could conceivably have three different governors (counting the current governor) during a space of just over two years. I think this is nonsense. We could be looking like France or Italy in the years after World War II, when each of those two countries had a new prime minister every six months or so.

The special election will cost us about $14 million. The primary will cost only $3 million, since it’s on a Saturday. The general election, being on a Tuesday, will cost $11 million. The difference is the pro-rated cost of giving state and public school employees an extra day off (which we must do when we have a statewide election on a weekday).

This is part of why I have been agitating for a lieutenant governor. A lieutenant governor would take office immediately upon the early departure (for whatever reason) of the governor. The lieutenant governor would become governor, not ACT AS governor (as the constitution says the president of the senate must do now).

It is that pesky phrase “act as” that is the source of much of the problem. Had the state constitution been written to say that the president of the senate was to “become” governor upon a vacancy, we would not now be required to spend $14 million on a special election to choose a governor for one year.

A lieutenant governor elected as a running mate of the governor would guarantee us general continuity in policy should the governor die or otherwise leave office.

Eleven delegates, including me, have introduced a proposed constitutional amendment that would give us a full-time lieutenant governor at no cost to the taxpayers. We accomplish this by requiring the lieutenant governor to hold a full-time cabinet position.

Some legislators object to the lieutenant governor occupying such a policy post. OK, fine. If we had a lieutenant governor paid $100,000 per year, with another $100,000 for the expenses of the office, it would take 70 years to cost us the $14 million this special election is costing us.

The current procedure (to have the president of the senate “act as” governor until a special election is held) dates from the “horse-and-buggy” days of West Virginia’s founding. This is the second time this procedure has had to be used.

The first time was in the 1880s (still “horse-and-buggy”). The president of the senate only had to “act as” governor for eight days and the legislature was not in session. It’s taken until now for the calamity that always occurs to hit us, making clear how stupid is our current procedure.