SU debate and forensics team wins 12 awards

Shepherd University's debate and forensics team won 12 awards in Ocean City, Maryland, at the CFA Tournament held March 5 – 6.

Lindsey Hiditch, Falling Waters, received three awards: second place for the Lincoln-Douglas Debate, third place for the Lincoln-Douglas and sixth place for Impromptu Speaking.

Norman Guice, Shepherdstown, received three awards: fifth place for the Lincoln-Douglas, fourth place for the After Dinner Speaking and sixth place for Dramatic Duo.

Timothy Jacob Leonard, Wheeling, received three awards: sixth place for the Lincoln-Douglas, fifth place for After Dinner Speaking and fourth place for Single Dramatic Interpretation.

Bryan Staggers, Keyser, received second place in the end of year awards for After Dinner Speaking.

Katherine Martin, Martinsburg, received sixth place for Dramatic Duo.

Shepherd University also placed fourth place in Team Sweepstakes.
SU announces new music scholarship

The Shepherd University Foundation has announced the creation of the Walker Horton Shipley Music Scholarship, funded by Mary Jane Shipley in memory of her late husband. Funds will be used to provide financial assistance to Shepherd students pursuing music studies.

For more information about this scholarship, or to honor or memorialize a loved one by establishing a named fund through the Shepherd University Foundation, please contact Monica Lingenfelter, Shepherd University Foundation, P.O. Box 5000, Shepherdstown, WV 25443-5000, 304-876-5397, mlingenf@shepherd.edu, or visit www.shepherd.edu/fndtnweb.
Shepherd University is leading the way in the state of West Virginia in reducing the number of credits required for a bachelor’s degree through curriculum reform in general studies and in the majors and minors. The new curriculum will be available to students fall 2011.

Responding to calls nationally to enhance student access and success, Shepherd University is reducing the amount of time students take to earn their baccalaureate degree and complete a degree in four years. Shepherd University will change the number of credit hours required for a bachelor’s degree by eight credit hours, from 128 to 120, this fall semester.

The national average for earning a bachelor’s degree is five years. Shepherd’s initiative is designed to help return the undergraduate degree-earning time to four years. Additionally, an innovative core curriculum will be implemented that includes a first-year experience course, a writing intensive course within the major, and a senior capstone course.

“This change broadens student access and success by making graduation in four years a greater possibility, thereby reducing the tuition costs for students and their families,” said Shepherd University President Suzanne Shipley. “These curricular changes will also make it easier for community college students to transfer to Shepherd and complete a degree within two years after transfer.”

All students entering Shepherd in the fall will be part of the 120-credit hour degree changes. Currently enrolled students will have the option of selecting the new curriculum or continuing under the course catalog in effect when they enrolled at Shepherd.

An academic advising assistance center has been established to aid students in the transition process. A web-based analysis tool will also be available to current students so they can compare the new program with the one in place when they originally enrolled.

"Without the hard work of our faculty members, we would not have successfully developed and implemented changes to the core curriculum," said Dr. Richard Helldobler, vice president for academic affairs. "They carefully examined the curriculum and re-worked it to reflect the competencies that students should have in the 21st century."

The retooling of the academic core requirements will lessen Shepherd’s reliance on part-time faculty who teach general studies and will emphasize an applied and practical application of the liberal arts, linking students to career training and planning.

"Shepherd University’s tradition of academic rigor will continue as we provide our graduates with the skills to be successful in their professions and in their lives," said President Shipley.
$11.4 billion spending plan includes $2.8 million for 415 fairs, festivals and other cultural causes

By MATTHEW UMSTEAD

carolcm@herald-mail.com

9:25 PM EDT, March 18, 2011

MARTINSBURG, W.Va.

A $11.4 billion spending plan for fiscal 2011-12 adopted by the West Virginia Legislature Friday includes $2.8 million for 415 fairs, festivals and other cultural causes.

The festivals and fairs include the following in the Eastern Panhandle:

- Belle Boyd House, $1,900
- General Adam Stephen Memorial Foundation, $17,600
- Heritage Craft Center of the Eastern Panhandle, $6,650
- Historic Middleway Conservancy, $950
- Jefferson County Black History Preservation Society, $4,750
- Jefferson County Historical Landmark Commission, $7,600
- Norman Dillon Farm Museum, $9,500
- Old Opera House Theater Company, $14,250
- Contemporary American Theater Festival, $94,763
- African-American Cultural Heritage Festival, $4,750
- Apollo Theater (summer program), $1,900
- Apple Butter Festival, $5,700
- Berkeley County Youth Fair, $17,575
- Charles Town Christmas Festival, $4,750
- Charles Town Heritage Festival, $4,750
- Christmas in Shepherdstown, $3,800
- Jefferson County African American Heritage Festival, $4,750
- County Fair Association, $23,750
- Mountain Heritage Arts and Crafts Festival, $4,750
- Mountain State Apple Harvest Festival, $7,125
- Old Tyme Christmas, $2,280
- Ranson Christmas Festival, $4,750
- Ranson Festival, $4,750
- Uniquely West Virginia Festival, $1,900,
- Winter Festival of the Waters, $4,750.

Meanwhile, higher education budget appropriations for colleges and universities included $11,202,798 for Shepherd University; $3,514,578 for Blue Ridge Community and Technical College; and $2,637,528 for West Virginia University's School of Health Science-Eastern Division in Martinsburg, according to a legislative reference and information office website.

Included in Shepherd's appropriation is $100,000 for the Gateway program.

And included in the appropriation for West Virginia University is $112,500 to be used for the Davis College of Forestry, Agriculture and Consumer Sciences' Kearneysville farm in Jefferson County.
Shepherd, Jamaican college sign agreement

By Cecily Mason

The President of Shepherd University and the president of a college in Jamaica have signed an agreement in which Shepherd will help train teachers from that island nation.

The agreement between Suzanne Shipley, Shepherd University president, and Lawrence Kenney, President of Middlesex International College in May Pen Jamaica, will allow 25 Jamaican teachers to enroll in Shepherd’s master of arts in curriculum and instruction program.

The teachers will take classes online and in person.

Shepherd professors will travel to Jamaica during summer and winter breaks to teach there.

The Jamaican students will finish the program at Shepherd during the summer of 2013.

Kenney says he hopes students from Middlesex will eventually be able to participate in other degree programs as well.

The two schools have cooperated in the past in teaching and nursing.
Shepherd University to gauge interest in programs for seniors

11:28 PM EDT, March 23, 2011

SHEPHERDSTOWN, W.Va.

Shepherd University is evaluating community interest in the establishment of a Lifelong Learning program for retirees, semi-retirees, and seniors. An advisory committee, appointed by Shepherd University President Suzanne Shipley, is developing the non-credit program to be rolled out in fall 2011.

The committee's first action is to survey Shepherdstown and the surrounding communities to access interest, needs, and the desired program structure. The full survey is being distributed through community service groups, churches, libraries, stores, and other public places throughout Shepherdstown, Charles Town, and Martinsburg for anyone wishing to participate. An interactive survey is available on Shepherd's homepage at www.shepherd.edu.

The Lifelong Learning committee is co-chaired by Dr. Diane Melby, vice president for advancement and Dr. Richard Helldobler, vice president for academic affairs. Members of the committee include professors Dr. Heidi Dobish and Dr. Mark McCoy and community members Jack Young, Lisa Younis, Lisa Oswald, Mary Sue Eldridge, Art Wineburg, and Sue Kennedy. For more information about the Lifelong Learning program at Shepherd, contact Diane Melby at 304-876-5378 or dmelby@shepherd.edu.
Chairman of the music department at Shepherd University leaving Shepherdstown

Mark McCoy has been appointed dean of the School of Music at DePauw University in Greencastle, Ind.

10:18 PM EDT, March 23, 2011

SHEPHERDSTOWN, W.Va.

Mark McCoy, chairman of the music department at Shepherd University, has been appointed dean of the School of Music at DePauw University in Greencastle, Ind., effective August 1, Shepherd University announced this week.

McCoy completes a 16-year career at Shepherd on June 30, 2011 and leaves a legacy of bringing musical excellence to the Eastern Panhandle.

A native West Virginian, McCoy is an alumnus of Shepherd University, earning his bachelor's degree from the university before moving on to the Peabody Conservatory and Texas Tech for his graduate degrees. He returned to Shepherd in 1995 to lead the instrumental music program and became chair shortly thereafter.

"We're incredibly proud of all that Mark has accomplished," said Shepherd President Suzanne Shipley. "He has given so much back to students, indicative of the quality he came to expect in the Shepherd experience. Mark educates the whole person!"

In addition to his duties as chair of the music department and as conductor of the Wind Ensemble and Orchestra at Shepherd, McCoy is also the conductor of the Two Rivers Chamber Orchestra, the artistic director for the Friends of Music Concert Series, and the founder and CEO of MusicFirst Festivals. McCoy was instrumental in bringing world renowned performances to the region including 2010 concerts by the Vienna Boys Choir and the Canadian Brass Quintet. He also led the successful Year of the Piano in 2004 that brought both Marvin Hamlish and a Fazioli concert grand piano to Shepherd.

"We are appreciative of all that Dr. McCoy has accomplished on Shepherd's behalf," said Richard Helldobler, vice president for academic affairs. "Under his leadership, the Department of Music became recognized by the state of West Virginia as a Program of Distinction and earned national accreditation with NASM (National Association of Schools of Music). Shepherd is committed to building upon that legacy in the years to come. We wish Dr. McCoy success in his new role and know that he will continue to represent us well as he makes his new mark in the midwest."

"This community will sorely miss Dr. McCoy," said Neal Barkus, president of the Friends of Music. "His vision and dedication to making music accessible to all people has transformed the quality of life that we enjoy in this region."
Shepherd, Middlesex to partner on master’s program

SHEPHERDSTOWN, W.Va. (AP) -- Shepherd University will offer a master's degree program to Jamaican teachers through a new partnership with Middlesex International College.

An agreement of cooperation between the schools will allow a cohort of 25 Jamaican teachers to enroll in Shepherd's master of arts in curriculum and instruction program.

Shepherd announced the agreement Thursday in a news release. Its professors will teach courses at Middlesex twice a year during summer and winter breaks. There also will be online courses.

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March 24, 2011, Greencastle, Ind. — Mark McCoy, who will become the new dean of the DePauw University School of Music after 16 years at Shepherd University in West Virginia, "leaves a legacy of bringing musical excellence to the Eastern Panhandle," declares an article in the Herald-Mail of Hagerstown, Maryland. The text notes, "A native West Virginian, McCoy is an alumnus of Shepherd University, earning his bachelor's degree from the university before moving on to the Peabody Conservatory and Texas Tech for his graduate degrees. He returned to Shepherd in 1995 to lead the instrumental music program and became chair shortly thereafter."

"We're incredibly proud of all that Mark has accomplished," states Shepherd President Suzanne Shipley. "He has given so much back to students, indicative of the quality he came to expect in the Shepherd experience. Mark educates the whole person."

Richard Helldobler, vice president for academic affairs at Shepherd, adds, "We are appreciative of all that Dr. McCoy has accomplished on Shepherd's behalf. Under his leadership, the Department of Music became recognized by the state of West Virginia as a Program of Distinction and earned national accreditation with NASM (National Association of Schools of Music). Shepherd is committed to building upon that legacy in the years to come. We wish Dr. McCoy success in his new role and know that he will
continue to represent us well as he makes his new mark in the midwest."

Dr. McCoy is conductor of the Wind Ensemble and Orchestra at Shepherd as well as the Two Rivers Chamber Orchestra. Additionally, he is the artistic director for the Friends of Music Concert Series, and the founder and CEO of MusicFirst Festivals. The *Herald-Mail* points out, "McCoy was instrumental in bringing world renowned performances to the region including 2010 concerts by the Vienna Boys Choir and the Canadian Brass Quintet. He also led the successful Year of the Piano in 2004 that brought both Marvin Hamlisch and a Fazioli concert grand piano to Shepherd."

"This community will sorely miss Dr. McCoy," states Neal Barkus, president of the Friends of Music. "His vision and dedication to making music accessible to all people has transformed the quality of life that we enjoy in this region."
Beauty as power: How attractiveness plays an important role in all societies

By Adrienne Lawrence

Beauty can be power.

If someone is perceived as beautiful, people usually respond positively to him or her, according to Nancy Etcoff. They may attribute other positive qualities to the beautiful person, such as honesty, kindness or goodness.

"We think we are responding to one thing, but really it is based on attractiveness," said Etcoff, author of "Survival of the Prettiest," faculty member at Harvard Medical School and practicing psychologist at Massachusetts General Hospital. "We don't like to think it, but we do judge a book by its cover. Our perceptions are often unconscious, unlearned."

But one can learn to not judge someone based solely on their looks.

In her book, Etcoff asks, why is beauty important? To answer, she pulled from historical and modern scientific research.

"I wanted to make it very readable," Etcoff said. She wrote it specifically for scientists, students and the general public but wanted to keep the data in an accessible format.

Etcoff will speak more about her book Monday at Shepherd University.

"People really want acceptance, and beauty is one way to get it," Etcoff said.

Is there a scientific or mathematical equation for beauty? Etcoff said probably not. Scientists and mathematicians have searched for ways to measure and then prove someone is beautiful, but measured units haven't always been based on a reliable standard.

One theoretician, Albrecht Dürer, used his fingers to measure. He based the size and dimensions of the perfect body off the size of his hands, which included his unusually long fingers.

"It certainly influenced classical artists," Etcoff said.

Instead of one race being the most beautiful, such as a European, beautiful features are being seen with a more worldly lens, she said. "As our world changes and our views change -- so does our biology," she said.

This shift is clear in plastic surgery.

It used to be more people wanted an upturned nose, paler skin and large eyelids, all indicative of someone with a European heritage. Now people want medium skin tones, larger lips or a wider nose tip. This change represents a blending of beauty, Etcoff said. The beholder is pulling from a larger gene pool than one race or area of the world.

At one point, people living in Fiji were gaining quite a bit of weight because heavy was beautiful there, Etcoff said. But once TV was introduced, natives swung to the other extreme and started dieting.

Etcoff saw her beauty in a new light, too.

While she wrote "Survival of the Prettiest," Etcoff noticed she became more aware of her looks and in the end became more relaxed about her beauty regimen.

"If I spend hours and hours (getting ready every day), I wouldn't be me," she said.
Jamaican teachers set to attend Shepherd

Shepherd University President Suzanne Shipley and Lawrence Kenney, president of Middlesex International College in May Pen, Jamaica, recently signed an agreement of cooperation between the two schools approving a cohort of 25 Jamaican teachers to enroll in the master of arts in curriculum and instruction program at Shepherd. Courses will be taught both in person and online with Shepherd professors visiting Middlesex twice a year during summer and winter breaks to teach courses. Jamaican students will finish the last nine credits of the master’s program on Shepherd’s campus during the summer of 2013. This opportunity will expand Shepherd’s reach internationally and increase the number of students enrolled in the master of arts in curriculum and instruction program.

Kenney said he is hoping this is the first of additional affiliations with Shepherd, which would allow students from Middlesex to participate in other degree programs as well. This is the first master’s program offered through the Middlesex International College, which specializes in nursing as well as hospitality and tourism programs.

Jamaicans are seeking degrees from American institutions as they rethink career goals amidst the economic downturn. Those who are seeking degrees represent two populations: Jamaicans who are entering new career directions and current elementary and secondary school teachers.

See Jamaican — page 27

Mark McCoy appointed dean of Indiana music school

Mark McCoy, chair of the Department of Music at Shepherd University, has been appointed dean of the School of Music at DePauw University in Greencastle, Ind., effective Aug. 1.

McCoy completes a 16-year career at Shepherd on June 30 and leaves a legacy of bringing musical excellence to the Eastern Panhandle.

A native West Virginian, McCoy is an alum of Shepherd College, earning his bachelor’s degree from the university before moving on to the Peabody Conservatory and Texas Tech for his graduate degrees. He returned to Shepherd in 1995 to lead the instrumental music program and became chair shortly thereafter.

“We’re incredibly proud of all that Mark has accomplished,” said Shepherd President Suzanne Shipley in a press release. “He has given so much back to students, indicative of the quality he came to expect in the Shepherd experience. Mark educates the whole person.”

In addition to his duties as chair of the Department of Music and as conductor of the Wood Ensemble and Orchestra at Shepherd, McCoy is also the conductor of the Two Rivers Chamber Orchestra, the artistic director for the Friends of Music Concert Series and the conductor and CEO of MusicFirst Festivals. McCoy was instrumental in bringing world renowned performances to the region including 2010 concerts by the Vienna Boys Choir and the Canadian Brass Quintet. He also led the successful Year of the Piano in 2004 that brought both Marvin Hamlisch and a Fazzoli concert grand piano to Shepherd.

“This community will sorely miss Dr. McCoy,” said Neal Barkas, president of the Friends of Music, in a press release. “His vision and dedication to making music accessible to all people has transformed the quality of life that we enjoy in this region.”
SU reacts to credit crunch

By Tricia Fulks and Kelly Cambrel
Chronicle Staff

Last week, while the student population was on spring break, Shepherd University announced its intent to redesign its curriculum. Shepherd will be the first university in the state to reduce the number of credit hours required to graduate from 128 to 120.

"What 120 does, it gives us the expectation of 15 hours a semester," said Shepherd President Suzanne Shipley.

Richard Helldobler, vice president of See Credits — page 24
two tiers are more flexible, so if a student changes his or her major, he or she won’t get behind in the curriculum.

Both Helddobler and Shipley said the faculty was heavily involved in the process.

Shipley said when it came to making a decision, the faculty was divided.

"This was by no means a unanimous vote," she said.

Larry Daily, chair of both the psychology department and the Faculty Senate’s General Studies standing committee, thinks the changes are steps in the right direction. Daily helped begin the work to revise the university’s general studies requirements more than five years ago.

He said the faculty has long felt that the curriculum is in need of modernization and greater flexibility. Daily believes the revised curriculum will make Shepherd more competitive and ultimately will better prepare students for life after graduation.

"In the long run, it will benefit students, and that’s what’s most important," he said.

Dow Benedict, dean of the School of Arts and Humanities and co-chair of the Academic Major and Minor Review Committee, supports the reform made to the curriculum.

But he said the process of deciding on those changes was long and not without some controversy, as the faculty worked to manage "strong opinions about how you educate."

He described the committee’s task as "looking for unnecessary redundancy that can be eliminated."

In the end Benedict hopes the decisions the faculty made achieve the goals laid out in the university’s strategic plan.

Benedict said that the effort to increase graduation rates by restructuring requirements for graduation is an often-undertaken nationwide effort.

Though SU chose to redesign without the direct oversight of either the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission or the Southern Regional Education Board, Benedict said both groups seem likely to make recommendations for curriculum redesigns across the state and region in the coming year, mandating a change from the average requirement of 128 to 129 credit hours for graduation.

From Shipley’s standpoint we want to be the ones who decide what’s right for our institution. We want to be the leader. We want to be the model," he said.

The major reason Shipley answered the call to seek change is college completion and affordability.

Shipley said at 120 hours, 15 hours a semester, students will be able to graduate within four years. She said on average she sees students graduating within between 120 and 150 hours — far more than the current state requirement of 128.

Kathy Butler, HEPC senior director of academic affairs, said "credit creep" is a problem across campuses and Shipley is combating that issue.

"This is just part of the college completion agenda," she said.

Butler said HEPC is encouraging more institutions across the state to assess their programs to reduce their hours.

College completion and making the college experience more affordable are goals.

If students finish their degree in less time, they will not spend as much money. Shipley said she estimated tuition plus living expenses for an in-state student at about $15,000 a year.

"We believe this is a great opportunity to save as a student," she said.

And as far as this curriculum redesign, about two or three years in the making, costing the university money, Shipley said it will actually be a more expensive degree because more full-time faculty are being hired.

"He’s reducing the hours, increasing the number of full-time faculty so that we can have a higher percentage of full-time faculty teaching our students," she said. "An ever-reliance on adjuncts can lead to what’s called ‘attrition.’"

So maintaining quality programs across the board remains important for the administration. Student success continues to be a priority for Shipley.

"This is with no decrease in quality and no decrease in rigor," she said. "Shepherd has a reputation of being a demanding institution, and we will continue to be a demanding institution."

For HEPC, academic integrity and student success is in top priority.

"The issue is student success — getting them ready for the workplace," Butler said. "But we don’t sacrifice quality."

Until this fall, when the new curriculum rolls out, policies are changing and majors are being adjusted on campus.

A new electronic catalog will eliminate the need to redesign on July 1.

Incoming students will register for classes through the new catalog while existing students must use the one that is already in place. In the fall they will be able to add and drop courses should they decide they want to switch to the new curriculum.

Chris Bryant, a graduate student studying college development and administration, supports the academic reform but expressed misgivings about the types of changes made.

"I think it’s a good idea to cut it down the eight credits. I just wish they had done it in a different way rather than re-vamping the whole general curriculum," Bryant said.

Yreator also felt that students earning 120 credit hours rather than the 128 he earned in order to graduate will min out on a more "well-rounded" education.

"I feel like my degree will be more of a true liberal arts degree than someone coming in now," he said.

Brian Miller, a third-year sociology major, said he would consider choosing the option to graduate with 120 credits.

"The only reason I’d be interested in switching would be because it gets you out of here faster," he said.

But Shipley said that’s not necessarily true.

"Not everybody’s going to save time by shifting to the new curriculum," she said.

She said switching to the inner heavy load could actually mean students would have to still take courses they didn’t have to take in their original curriculum. She thinks Shepherd has done a good job with this," Butler said. "They have shown that it can be done."
The Doyle Report

By Delegate John Doyle

We did a few things right

While I would rate the legislature’s performance this year overall as less than average, we did pass a few bills that will in my view improve the lives of West Virginians.

We lowered the sales tax on food by another penny. It’s been 3 percent for a couple of years, having been lowered from 6 percent over a three-year period. I believe we should do away with it entirely and we do intend to do so. But we have to do it responsibly and I think that means gradually. Every penny of this tax equates to about $25 million in our state’s general revenue fund.

We could have eliminated it entirely if we had not decided to give a small raise in salary to state employees and public school employees. That raise will amount to approximately 2 percent per person and will cost the state about $60 million. I strongly support this raise because it’s been three years since they got their last raise. We also gave a one-time only bonus payment of $1,200 for retirees with at least 20 years experience whose annual retirement does not exceed $7,200.

I think it’s testimony to the responsible way our state has been managed by the legislature and the last two governors (first Joe Manchin and now Earl Ray Tomblin) that we’re able to give public employees pay raises and cut taxes. Remember, the Business Franchise Tax (in my view the stupidest tax any state could ever place on businesses) drops by another percentage point this year, a result of a law passed several years ago which will totally eliminate it in another three years.

We strengthened our Ethics Act considerably. Now those of us in public office must disclose not only our own incomes but those of our spouses. This rule applies to candidates for office and top aides of officeholders as well as officeholders. And people must wait a year after leaving public office.

See Right ——— page 8
**Right**

Scott page 6

office to lobby the legislature or agencies of the executive branch.

In K-12 education we created a student dropout prevention and recovery program, and also devised a program to help county school boards use federal funds for tutoring, summer school and retaking classes. What we accomplished the budget we anticipated our low-income college tuition assistance grant program (already the most generous in the country) by 14 million.

In the area of law enforcement we increased the penalties for financial exploitation of a senior citizen or incapacitated adult and made computer hacking a crime. We alsorided in what I thought was a big step in our kidnapping law by passing a bill called "Celine's Law." Celine's Law is a Meme, and to be guilty you have to actually abduct someone. But fairly dealing someone in his or her home has actually been a crime. "Celine's Law" creates a minimum sentence of kidnapping that will cover such forcible detention.

We enacted the West Virginia-Benifit Exchange Act. This makes one state eligible for $50 million in federal funding and allows individuals and small businesses to pool buying power to purchase health insurance from private insurers. This mirror the new federal health exchange law and will enable West Virginia to quickly adapt to this law. About the new federal law be disrupted by the courts, our state exchange will still be around to lower health insurance rates for hundreds or thousands of West Virginians.

Another major health care achievement was the passage of a bill that will require insurance to cover autism spectrum disorders. This culminated an effort of about a self-defense years to require such coverage.

We raised the price of driver's licenses and vehicle license tags for the first time in many years. The approximately 54 million in this move will raise revenue that will go to maintain state roads, so there will be fewer potholes over the next few years.

West Virginia is one of a few states to receive employees of barber and or beauty shops to be a graduate of a barber or beauty college to wash a customer's hair. We enacted this law.

I was the lead sponsor of a bill we passed that gives West Virginia a "reporter shield" law. This law protects reporters who uncover crimes by preventing judges from sealing them to jail if they refuse to divulge their sources. Many times people with knowledge of crimes will "spill the beans" to reporters if they know their identities will not be revealed. Without such a "shield" law many crimes would go unsolved.

I first became interested in this issue when Judith Miller, then a reporter for the New York Times, was sent to jail for a couple of months for refusing to divulge her source for the story of the "bleeding" of Valerie Plame as a CIA agent a few years ago.
SHEPHERDSTOWN, WV - A robotics competition at Shepherd University this weekend mixed mathematics and science with video game controllers.

Organizers of the first annual Shep Robo Fest say this competition develops American students’ interest in subjects like math and science, fields they usually fall behind in on the international stage.

The school’s Computer Sciences, Mathematics and Engineering department organized the robotic competition and students as young as kindergarten participated.

Participants built robots from products like Lego pieces, then they programmed the robots to follow commands.

“The fact that you are making something that can think on its own and move around on its own, it blows my mind,” says Courtney Critts, a freshman at the university.

Some of the creations were able to extinguish a flame on a candle.

“That could be used in real life,” says Matthew Ati, a freshman. “Eventually we could use them to help fight real fires,” he says.

There were about 30 participants and organizers hope to expand the program next year.
Shepherdstown Relay team hosts tea benefit for charity

By Edward Marshall
Journal Staff Writer

Shepherdstown — Shepherd University’s Relay for Life team continued its effort to support cancer research Sunday by inviting members of the public to attend an afternoon tea fundraiser featuring world-class tea and a presentation by a certified tea specialist on one of the world’s most favored and selected beverages.

All proceeds from the benefit will go to the American Cancer Society as part of the Shepherd University Relay for Life team’s contributions.

“There’s a whole culture connected with it. In the tea business, we call it the world of tea, and there’s something magical about tea,” said Judy Larkin, certified tea specialist and organizer of the fundraiser.

As of last week, the team had raised more than $35,000 for Relay for Life and hopes to exceed $50,000 in contributions by the end of the year.

“The proceeds will go 100 percent to Relay for the American Cancer Society,” said Rebecca Brewer, captain of Shepherd University’s Student Affairs Relay for Life team and member of the board of directors of the Lewisburg Tea Company.

The event, which is expected to sell out, is the first one of its kind and was planned for about 55 teams that will participate in Relay for Life next month.

“We’re already past $30,000, so hopefully in a couple of weeks we’ll have the $80,000.” Boyer said.

“It’s really an important cause, because this touches every one of our lives.”

One highlight of the afternoon was a presentation by Judy Larkin called “Tea: The Cup that Cheers.”

A certified tea specialist, Larkin has been studying tea through the Tea Association of the United States and the Specialty Tea Institute for more than a decade. She’s traveled the world, visiting places such as China, Sri Lanka, India and Japan in her pursuit to learn everything there is to know about tea and its culture.

Her presentation included an overview of the history of tea, its health benefits as well as tea etiquette and how to properly prepare tea.

“There’s a whole culture connected with it. In the tea business we call it the world of tea, and there’s something magical about tea,” said Larkin, a native of England. “It’s the most popular beverage in the world after water. There’s 200 million cups of tea drunk every second every day, which is really incredible.”

Those who attended Sunday’s tea were impressed with the wealth of information they learned about tea and were pleased with the attendance of the American Cancer Society as much as they can. I attended a tea in Hagerstown last year, and I was looking forward to coming here. I like to support the local Relay for Life,” said Martha Young, of Shepherdstown.

Sandy Graff, of Hagerstown, Md., also was excited to attend the elegant gathering.

“I think this is just fun. The idea of having a high tea in the United States, specifically in Shepherdstown, is just delightful. It’s an opportunity to get together with some very nice people,” Graff said.

Virginia Winston, a fan of both Larkin and tea, traveled with her daughter to attend the fundraiser.

“I’ll go anywhere for tea. I love a high tea ... we decided this would be a good way to spend the afternoon, so I’m delighted to be here,” said Winston, of Jefferson County.

Ann Wayt, of Shepherdstown, also liked the idea of a tea to benefit Relay for Life.

“I think anything they can do for cancer cures is wonderful. I think we all have relatives and friends that we’ve lost. It’s a good idea,” Wayt said.
April Tessler, left, Amanda Haupt and Nick Drazda work with great haste to prep their robot, 'Abaddon,' for the mechanized warfare battle at the ShepRobo Fest Sunday afternoon in the Shepherd University Butcher Center. More photos are available at cu.journal-news.net.

Student robots do battle

By Edward Marshall
Journal Staff Writer

SHEPHERDSTOWN — In an arena that looked the set of a 1950s Godzilla film, miniature, spider-like robots built by some of the area’s brightest young minds battled for the No. 1 spot this weekend as just one part of Shepherd University’s 2011 ShepRobo Fest.

The inaugural robotics competition, hosted by Shepherd University’s Department of Computer Sciences, Mathematics and Engineering, took place Saturday and Sunday with events for grade school to college-aged students.

Three main events for various age groups were featured at the competition, including a firefighting robot contest, a mech-warfare tournament for participants of all ages and a First Lego League competition for students in grades six through eight.

'Abaddon,' left, is defeated by 'Drako-4' in the mechanized warfare battle at the 2011 ShepRobo Fest Sunday afternoon in the Shepherd University Butcher Center.

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Robots

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fourth through eighth grades. "The whole purpose for this project is to engage students and to bring more into the STEM field – science technology, engineering and mathematics," said Seung-yun Kim, assistant professor of computer and information sciences. "Yesterday, we had big fun with the kids and with the parents. They really loved it. I met a lot of science teachers and elementary school teachers, and they really appreciate that ... the kids can come and enjoy a day and realize the importance of technology and mathematics."

In the firefighting competition, students were tasked with building a robot that could navigate a maze autonomously to find a candlelight heat source and extinguish it. The First Lego League competition saw elementary to middle school students complete specific tasks using engineering skills within a limited time frame. The highlight for the weekend was the mech-warfare tournament, which saw students and registered contestants pit their homemade robots against each other in the arena. Each robot was equipped with a projectile weapon used to try to score points by shooting hit markers on the mechs. Mounted with cameras, they were remotely controlled by participants.

"These guys really worked hard. There's a lot of computer engineering, computer science and math students. Some of them slept here yesterday night," Kim said. "Everybody enjoyed it. They loved it."

Some of the festival's funding was the result of an Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research grant, which Shepherd recently received. More than 30 teams participated in the competition.

"This is a blast. I even love the stress because it forces me to test my limits and stuff like that a little more than I would like," said Seth Cook, a senior studying computer engineering at Shepherd.

Cook is the president of the Shepherd University Robotics Club and has been building robots since he was about 13 years old. The club currently has about 25 members and fielded a majority of Shepherd's teams that competed this weekend. The club will travel next month to RoboGames in California, the world's largest robotics competition.

"Personally I think this is the best way to get kids interested in science and math and stuff like that because you are combining a lot of different things, but doing something cool with it," said Cook, who was one of the driving forces behind ShepRobo Fest.

Getting the robots to work properly is half the challenge. Many students worked through Saturday night with little to no sleep trying to fix mechanical problems.

"It was a lot of work and things were going OK, but then every bug you can imagine popped up," said Andy Bungard, a Shepherd University sophomore. "If it's not challenging, it's not really that fun."

27-year-old hobbyist Erik Laughlin traveled all the way from Philadelphia to compete in the contest after learning how to build robots online.

"It was pretty cool. It's my first competition for robotics, so it's a good learning experience," he said.

Mike Ferguson, a Ph.D. student who attends the University at Albany-SUNY in New York, was among those who oversaw the weekend's mech tournament, providing advice and guidance to students.

"I think they've learned a lot and had a lot of fun doing it," Ferguson said. "Most courses in computer science, the first course you are going to sit there and write a calculator and write a little math program or something. That's not interesting. Making a robot move around, that's quite interesting, and students really do appreciate that."

It's not all just fun and games. Cook, who plans on attending graduate school, hopes one day to use his knowledge of robotics to design advanced prosthetics and to help amputees.

"I'm building robots to shoot at each other now, but eventually I want to be healing people," Cook said.

-- Staff writer Edward Marshall can be reached at 304-263-8931, ext. 182, or emarshall@journal-
SHEPHERDSTOWN — Shepherd University President Dr. Suzanne Shipley and Dr. Lawrence Kenney, president of Middlesex International College in May Pen, Jamaica, recently signed an agreement of cooperation between the two schools approving a cohort of 25 Jamaican teachers to enroll in the master of arts in curriculum and instruction program at Shepherd.

Courses will be taught both in person and online with Shepherd professors visiting Middlesex twice a year during summer and winter breaks to teach courses. Jamaican students will finish the last nine credits of the masters program on Shepherd’s campus during the summer of 2013.

“We look forward to partnering with Middlesex International College,” Shipley said. “This will expand Shepherd’s scope around the globe as well as give our faculty opportunities to teach abroad and give us opportunities to host and establish connections with Jamaican teachers who will be studying on our campus in 2013.”

This opportunity will expand Shepherd’s reach internationally and increase the number of students enrolled in the master of arts in curriculum and instruction program.

“The master’s program for us will give our teachers an opportunity to extend their education and make them better prepared in the classroom. It will enhance their qualifications for improved teaching,” Kenney said. “The course offerings will not only be a direct benefit for the teachers but for the students they teach.”

Kenney said he is hoping this is the first of additional affiliations with Shepherd, which would allow students from Middlesex to participate in other degree programs as well. This is the first master’s program offered through the Middlesex International College, which specializes in nursing as well as hospitality and tourism programs.

Jamaicans are seeking degrees from American institutions as they rethink career goals amidst the economic downturn. Those who are seeking degrees represent two populations: Jamaicans who are entering new career directions and current elementary and secondary school teachers. Additionally, new governmental regulations in Jamaica require all school teachers to either hold a master’s degree or a four-year baccalaureate degree.

According to one report, 17,000 teachers in Jamaica hold three-year diplomas, and 20 percent of teachers have obtained a master’s degree.

Kenney said that Middlesex was interested in collaborating with Shepherd based on previous experience with Shepherd students and faculty over the past couple years through teaching and nursing practicums.

“The tuition is reasonably priced, and Shepherd professors are acquainted with Jamaica and have been involved over the years with the people and culture, and are familiar with the curriculum that fits the needs of our teachers,” Kenney said.

Dr. Virginia Hicks, dean of the School of Education and Professional Studies at Shepherd, has led several student practicum trips to Jamaica.

“This international experience will enhance their global awareness, and the faculty will be able to share their experiences with their students at Shepherd. This will bring educators from two different countries together to learn from each other,” Hicks said.

Hicks said that the unique experience of providing a master’s degree in curriculum and instruction in Jamaica will provide both faculty and students an opportunity to broaden their world view.

“This experience has the potential to create additional opportunities for other programs at Shepherd University to collaborate with Middlesex. This experience will let more people know about Shepherd and to hear about their strong academic programs. In addition this international experience may be attractive to recruiting faculty to teach at Shepherd,” Hicks said.
ROCKEFELLER REQUESTS SUPPORT FOR WEST VIRGINIA STUDENTS

"TRIO Program Supports More Than 8,500 West Virginians"

Washington, D.C. - Senator Jay Rockefeller announced today that he has joined an effort to convince the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health, and Human Services to provide needed funding for TRIO programs (TRIO) in the 2012 budget, so that more than 8,500 West Virginia students pursue higher education and work towards a better future.

"During these tough economic times, we need to equip young people with the tools they need to create a better future for themselves and their families," said Rockefeller. "By giving students the opportunity to pursue higher education, we develop highly skilled men and women that can take on the challenges of the modern workforce. TRIO has helped thousands of West Virginians attend college – giving them an opportunity to find and keep good-paying jobs and build good futures for themselves. I am hopeful that we can prevent short-sighted cuts to this valuable program."

Background:

Last year, West Virginia received more than $9 million in funding and more than 8,500 first generation students and students with disabilities (from sixth grade through college education) were served by TRIO.

In 2010 – 2011, 11 West Virginia colleges and universities were participating in TRIO programs: Bluefield State College, Marshall University, Concord University, West Virginia University, Glenville State College, Potomac State College, Shepherd University, Southern West Virginia Community & Technical College, West Virginia University Institute of Technology, Davis and Elkins College, and Salem International University.

TRIO programs, which are part of the Department of Education, identify and provide services for low-income, first generation students. Last year, TRIO programs helped over 840,000 students nationwide by providing intensive academic tutoring, college and career counseling, financial aid advising, and personal mentoring. If funding were flat-lined for the 2012 budget, 62,000 middle school and high school students will lose access to these successful programs.

According to a study by the Department of Education, students that were part of TRIO were more likely than their socioeconomic peers to go to college, and perform better once there. In order for the work of TRIO to operate at its current level, Senators Max Baucus (D – Mont.), Susan Collins (R – Maine) and Rockefeller have asked their colleagues to support the $920 million apportioned in President Obama's FY2012 budget.
Mineral County Historical Society to host Civil War program

Keyser, W.Va. —

For the News Tribune

KEYSER - The Mineral County Historical Society, in cooperation with Potomac State College, will launch its Civil War Sesquicentennial observance with a program titled "The Causes of the Civil War: A Primer."

The featured speaker will be Dr. Mark Snell, director of the Center for the Study of the Civil War at Shepherd University.

The causes of the American Civil War are varied and complex. Snell will discuss the major sectional issues that led to the Civil War, from the nation's founding through the tumultuous decade of the 1850s to the election of Abraham Lincoln.

The program will take place Tuesday, April 12, at 7 p.m. in the University Place Theater on the Potomac State College campus in Keyser.

It is free and open to the public, and is made possible through the West Virginia Humanities Council's Sesquicentennial Speakers Bureau.

The West Virginia Humanities Council established its new Sesquicentennial Speakers Bureau to help organizations across the state strengthen their programs related to the 150th anniversary of the Civil War and birth of the Mountain State.

The sesquicentennial period runs 2011 to 2015 and will be marked by observances all over the country. West Virginia, as the lone state created during the period of the Civil War, has much history to consider during the observance.

For more information about the program, call 304-788-5888. Groups interested in scheduling a speaker should contact West Virginia Humanities Council program officer Mark Payne at 304-346-8506 or HYPERLINK payne@wvhumanities.org.

For those who wish to come early for food and fellowship, the Historical Society is offering dinner at 6 p.m. in the University Place Heritage Room. There is a $12 charge for the meal, and reservations are required by Thursday, April 7.

For more information or to make dinner reservations call 304-788-5882 or contact Nancy Marshall at sancolmar@frontier.com.
Shepherd holds first Robotics Competition

BRYAN CLARK  

SHEPHERDSTOWN – Shepherd University’s Department of Computer Sciences, Mathematics and Engineering held its first ShepRobo competition over the weekend. The event provided a venue for students and hobbyists of all ages to build and program software for robots designed to solve specific tasks. The competition was sponsored in part by a grant from the Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR) and matching funds from Shepherd.

The competition was organized by Dr. Seung-yun Kim, Assistant Professor of Computer and Information Sciences. “We – as the Shepherd team – went to an international [robotics] competition in 2008,” said Kim. He said that this inspired the idea of building a robotics community throughout the Eastern Panhandle area. ShepRobo is part of that effort.

Kim said the event aims to redress the lagging state of American education in fields such as science, engineering, and mathematics. “If you look around at other countries, our students are way behind,” said Kim. On a world scale, the US ranks 23rd in science and 32nd in mathematics – Estonia, for example, has much higher scores in both – according to the latest data from the Programme for International Student Assessment.

There were three divisions of competition accepting entries. The first was an unofficial “Lego League” competition, in which elementary and middle school students could enter robots constructed using Lego’s Mindstorm line of products to complete a variety of simple tasks. The second was a “Fire Fighting” competition, in which entrants from high school and college built and programmed robots to autonomously navigate a maze and extinguish a candle which was hidden in one of four rooms. Finally, there was a “Mech Warfare” competition – which accepted any entrant – in which robots with camera-based targeting systems and mounted Airsoft guns did battle in a small enclosed arena.

Many of the robots were constructed and programmed by members of Shepherd’s own robotics team – ten of the thirty-odd robots entered in competition. The robotics club has seen major growth recently, according to Kim, growing from five to over thirty members in a short time. The team is currently working on about 15 robots, said Kim, 10 of which were entered in ShepRobo.

There were also two teams in attendance from Washington County Technical High School in Hagerstown, Maryland. They both used Lego Mindstorm components to construct robots which were entered into the fire fighting contest. Though none of the robots entered at the high school level were able to successfully put out the candle, robots entered by both teams navigated significant portions of the maze successfully.

Picured L-R, Megan Watson and Sarah Tasker of Washington County Technical High School entered a robot in the Fire Fighting competition.

Picture Front Row L-R: Kaylyn Walls, Joshua Ellis Back Row L-R: Matt Smith, Ben Mercier, Justin Dalman also of Washington County Technical High School.
Shepherd University to host research scientist

Shepherd University’s chapter of Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society will host the lecture “Agroforestry Systems as Conservation Tools: The Case of Shade Coffee” by Dr. Robert A. Rice, research scientist at the Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center (SMBC), on Thursday, April 7 at 7 p.m. in the Robert C. Byrd Center for Legislative Studies auditorium.

Rice conducts research and addresses policy issues related to migratory bird habitat and conservation at the SMBC. Since receiving his Ph.D from UC-Berkeley, he has lived and worked in Guatemala, and for the past 15 years has been at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C. His research interests focus upon the intersection between agricultural activities and the natural environment, as well as the socioeconomic benefits derived from diverse agroforestry systems. He currently is examining soil carbon in agroforestry systems with different shade management regimes.

For more information about Phi Kappa Phi, visit www.shepherd.edu/pkpweb.
The Shepherd University Office of Alumni Relations, School of Business and Social Sciences, and Career Services will sponsor a Professional Connections Day for Shepherd students Tuesday, April 5, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Shepherd alumni from the business community, both private and public, will participate in several different sessions that will cover topics ranging from career development and workplace communications for small business entrepreneurs, corporate, government, and nonprofits. The topics will be geared toward helping students prepare for a career after college. The day will also focus on how business, accounting, and economics are interrelated in the business community. The morning sessions will be followed by a networking lunch to allow participants to meet the business professionals.

Registration will begin at 8:10 a.m. in the Student Center on Tuesday, April 5 followed by a continental breakfast in the Storer Ballroom. At 9 a.m., Dr. Suzanne Shipley, president of Shepherd University and Scott Bradford Dolman '95, president of the Alumni Association, will introduce keynote speakers Tiffany Lawrence '04, marketing and public relations manager, Hollywood Casino at Charles Town Races, and member of the West Virginia House of Delegates.

For more information, contact the Shepherd University Office of Alumni Relations at 304-876-5157.
Shepherd radio show awarded SEA honor

By Megan Fisher

MARTINSBURG – A Shepherd University radio station won the Radio Show of the Year Award, an honor given to one station out of thousands across the country.

At the eighth annual Southern Entertainment Awards in Memphis, Tenn., the award was presented to hosts "Big T" and "Webb," or Travis Arrington and Richard Shedd, for their weekly show called "Da SouthernBoi Hr." It was the first time the show had been nominated for SEA.

"It was fun... We were able to walk the red carpet and flash our award," Arrington said. "We hope to get nominated for more awards next year."

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Arrington said the show features urban hip-hop and R&B music. Listeners from Jefferson County to the United Kingdom tune in to the show every week.

“We play exclusive music that your normal hip-hop radio station can’t play just because we get the music first,” Arrington said. “We play what the people want to hear.”

In addition to the latest music, Arrington and Shedd give exclusive interviews to popular music producers and performers, and hold the SouthernBoi news where they discuss celebrity gossip and local issues.

“Webb founded the radio show, and he’s the reason why we do it,” said Arrington about his co-host. “I give him all the credit.”

“Da SouthernBoi Hr” hosts were also nominated for No. 1 Male Personality of the Year. In total, 70 awards were given by the SEA.

“I didn’t understand the significance of the award until I got to Memphis,” said Arrington, who lost the Male Personality of the Year award to Greg Street. “Basically, if (Street) endorses your album, that’s pretty much it — you’re a star. Just to be nominated with him is an honor.”

Arrington and Shedd produce their own albums, which can be purchased on most sites, including but not limited to iTunes, Amazon, EMusic, Napster, BestBuy.com, Target.com and Rhapsody. “Kushville Music,” their latest album, is available on iTunes.

“People look at rap and hip-hop 50/50. For the most part the media has accepted it.” Arrington said. “We just want to showcase rap and hip-hop in a good light, and let people know in a local scene, you can do it.”

“Da SouthernBoi Hr” airs live every Tuesday from 5 to 7 p.m. on Shepherd’s WSHC 89.7. The show also can be streamed online.

More information is available at www.southernboelent.com.

Staff writer Megan Fisher can be reached at 304-263-3381, ext. 132, or mfisher@journal-news.net.
From Martinsburg:

I'd like to thank Shepherd University for making my stay with it even longer than it should be. Four-year college? That's a joke. Ask anyone attending — you are lucky to get out in five!