Shepherd grads look to future

By TRISH RUDDER
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SHEPHERDSTOWN, W.VA. — The members of the 2010 graduating class of Shepherd University received their degrees Saturday in front of a full gymnasium packed with family and friends.

Held in the university's Butcher Athletic Center, the graduating class of more than 700 students cheered for each other as the students were called to walk across the stage to receive their degrees.

Margaret L. Workman, a justice on the West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals, was the guest speaker at the university's 137th commencement.

Workman said she grew up poor, but remembers her family visiting people in nursing homes, taking gifts and singing gospel music to them. She said her family enjoyed doing it and probably got more out of it than the people they visited.

"It's the givers that receive the greatest gift," she said.

She told the graduates to "find the work that you love."

Workman, who is a graduate of West Virginia University, received an honorary doctorate from Shepherd before giving the address.

Erin Weatherly, 21, of Hagerstown, received a bachelor of arts degree in elementary education. She is a Phi Kappa Phi honor society member and graduated magna cum laude.

"This is well beyond a high school graduation," Weatherly said. "It's an amazing feeling."

Her parents, grandmother, sister, aunts and fiancé attended the ceremony, she said.

"It was a lot of hard work," said Kelly Martin, 23, of Boonsboro, who received a Regents bachelor of arts degree.

Martin said she wants to teach elementary school after she earns a master's degree.

Graduating from Shepherd "is overwhelming, it's great," she said.

Joel Keck's parents and brother came from Richmond, Va., to see him receive his degree.
His father, James Keck, said his son is the first in the family to graduate from college.

"We are very proud of Joel," said his mother, Lisa Keck.

His brother, Ryan, said Joel came to Richmond to watch him receive his Eagle Scout award and he wanted to see him get his degree.

Joel's wife, Elena Keck, who came to America as a high school exchange student from Russia, captured him receiving his diploma on video.

"It's huge for us," said Joel Keck, who lives in Charles Town, W.Va., with his wife and three children.

Lynne Smith and U.S. Air Force Col. Alan Smith came from Centreville, Va., to watch their daughter, Brittany Smith, receive her degree.

Lynne Smith said her daughter is the first grandchild to graduate from college on her husband's side of the family.

"She is very shy, and we were worried to send her off to college, but she blossomed when she began at Shepherd," she said.

She said Brittany is a "true military kid" since the family lived all over the country, in England and in Guam, and that helped her adapt to Shepherd.
Shepherd's Relay For Life breaks records

Shepherdstown — Despite rain for the third consecutive year, Shepherd University's Relay For Life went on as scheduled. The campus was hosting with activity on April 16, as 866 participants and 72 teams gathered for one cause: to find a cure for cancer. To date, Shepherd's Relay event has raised $66,518.61, and organizers expect to raise more toward their $80,000 goal.

Holly Frye, director of student community services and service learning, said that this year's Relay was a record year for participants.

"I'm very proud of what the students were able to do," Frye said. "We accomplished all of our goals, which was to first, honor survivors; second, advocate and bring awareness; and third, raise money."

Now in its eighth year, Relay For Life is a community-wide event.

"All the students really pulled together because of the inclement weather," Jessica Draper, student community services programming assistant.

Organizers made advocacy and awareness a priority this year, painting the town purple with ribbons and producing a music video with the help of Shepherd's Department of Mass Communication.

To view the music video, footage from the event and photos, visit http://www.shepherd.edu/university/releases/2010/relay2.html.

Due to weather, some events kept getting pushed back, including the torch walk, which began a half-hour late. Participants gathered on German Street in Shepherdstown to watch as survivors from both the community and campus walked from either side of the street, meeting in front of the Shepherdstown Library to light the torch that was carried through campus.

"All the students really pulled together because of the inclement weather," said Jessica Draper, student community services programming assistant.

Adam Walls, a junior history major from San Jose, Calif., said he lost his grandmother to cancer when he was young. Walls said he also lost close friends who were like his surrogate grandparents from his church to cancer.

"I like how it brings everyone together for a cause," Walls said. "It's a cause everyone's affected by and everyone does their part to try to make a difference, even if it's small."

Konrad Turnbull, a junior mass communications major, from Blackpool, England, has participated in the Relay three years. This is his first year serving as a committee chair for the event.

"It's a really great experience," Turnbull said.

Jenna Sizemore, senior chemistry major from Summersville, participated in her second Relay For Life this year.

"I think it's such a great organization to help raise money for something that affects everyone," Sizemore said.

Sizemore lost her father to cancer last year.

"This year, it means a lot to me and I'm glad I can be a part of it," she said.

Kathy Burress, a cancer survivor from Frederick, Md., was a member of the Sigma Alpha Iota's "Gram's Girls" team. This was Burress' second year participating.

"It's uplifting and encouraging to see this many people turn out," Burress said.

Top fundraisers this year included The Wellness Warriors, who raised $5,892; Hope Riders, made up of Relay For Life committee chairs, who raised $5,844, and Sigma Alpha Iota's "Gram's Girls," which raised $3,234.86.

Frye said that money will continue to be raised through August. For more information, visit Shepherd's Relay For Life site at http://main.acsevents.org/site/TR/relay/ -id=243368-pw=entry.
Students compete in robotics competition

SHEPHERDSTOWN — Members of the Shepherd University Robotics Club took second place at the recent Abington Regional Firefighting Robot Contest at Penn State University-Abington. The object of the exercise was to create a robot that could find the fire in the maze and extinguish it.

Shepherd students entered three teams in the senior division of the competition. The competition included 56 robots from schools across the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic regions and one team came from as far away as the University of Wisconsin.

This is the second time the club has participated in the competition, but it was the first time they took home an award. The Neptune team — made up of Caleb Rice, of Kearneysville; Andy Burgard, of Sistersville; Eliot Bartos, of Washington, D.C.; Jeffery Carter, of Shepherdstown; and Michael Skaggs, of Arnoldsville — placed second in the competition.

The other two teams included the Vulcan team, made up of Seth Cook, of Shepherdstown; Jon Hennenberg, of Martinsburg; Ryan Hernandez, of Falling Waters; and George Gaither, of Winchester, Virginia; and the Triton team, made up of Chris Schmitt, of Martinsburg; Ben Witham, of Charles Town; and Matthew Tark, and Emad Khan, both of Hagerstown.

The club is going into its third year on campus. Students create and solder their robots in a lab in Snyder Hall.

Chris Schmitt, senior computer science major from Martinsburg, said the competition was a good experience for him.

"I learned more than just programming," Schmitt said. "I expanded my knowledge to hardware and software."

Caleb Rice, sophomore mathematics major from Kearneysville, who helped head the group up this year, said that he developed leadership skills through the competition.

Dr. Seung-yeon Kim, assistant professor of computer and information sciences and faculty advisor for the Robotics Club, said the club and competition provide good experiences for students.

"It's a great retention tool for students in the department," Kim said. "It helps cultivate their leadership skills, teach teamwork and build their engineering minds."

Jeffery Carter, a freshman computer engineering major from Shepherdstown, said that the competition gave him a chance to apply what he learned in the classroom with real-life application, while also making new friends.

Reza Mirdamadi, associate professor of engineering and chair of the department of computer science, mathematics and engineering, said the department purchased five robots in 2005. The robotics club started as a class but Mirdamadi extended the opportunity to all students at Shepherd by making it a club, which he mentored until 2007 when Kim took it over.

Mirdamadi said the program started at a basic level, but now has a specific mission with the recent participation in competitions. In addition, the Robotics Club has exposed the department in other arenas and allows students to network and learn from students at other schools.

"It's a good learning experience all around," Mirdamadi said.

This fall, the department will offer two sections of first-year experience courses in robotics.

"We hope this will build community among the students and hopefully attract students to the department," Mirdamadi said.


Professor receives faculty research award

SHEPHERDSTOWN — Dr. Seung-yeon Kim, Shepherd University assistant professor of computer information sciences, has received a $24,695 West Virginia IDEA Network of Biomedical Research Excellence Faculty Research Development Award for the funding of his proposal “Modeling, Verification and Simulation of Molecular Biology System Processes Using Petri nets.” Dr. Kim will attend the WV-INBRE Summer Symposium in Morgantown on July 29 and present a poster on his proposal.

Dr. Kim said the unprecedented growth in the volume of molecular biological system processes data makes it essential to integrate and organize the data into coherent descriptive and representative models. The structured modeling processes of complex systems are important for verification and understanding these systems, he says. Therefore, modeling the systems in terms of a Petri net gives better understanding and powerful analytical capabilities as the specific reactions and the order in which they need to be carried out are clearly stated.

After a literature review on topics related to the project, and consultation with the project's mentor Dr. Robert Warburton, Shepherd professor of biochemistry, Dr. Kim will conduct suitable molecular biology system processes using three different types of Petri nets. Simulation of the processes will be completed to demonstrate reachability and boundedness of the proposed processes. Two undergraduate students will work on this research in conjunction with Dr. Kim.

Dr. Kim said the proposal of “Modeling, Verification and Simulation of Molecular Biology System Processes Using Petri nets” will increase awareness of Petri nets and their use in modeling biological systems; aid in understanding the sequential reactions of MBSPs; develop graphical and mathematical representations of MBSPs; provide undergraduate students with a blend of conceptual and theoretical knowledge and practical, hands-on experience in the design and implementation of Petri nets; promote critical thinking and research skills in the participating students; and encourage the students to consider graduate studies in their respective fields.

This is the first time Dr. Kim has applied to WV-INBRE. Dr. Warburton has received three prior WV-INBRE award grants, says Warren Calderone, director of foundation, corporate, and government relations at Shepherd.
CAMPUS NEWS

Two Berkeley County residents named McMurran Scholars

SHEPHERDSTOWN — Two Berkeley County residents were among 20 Shepherd University students named McMurran Scholars, the university's highest academic honor.

An academic convocation was held on April 30 to honor the new McMurrans inductees.

Falling Waters resident Chelsea Miller is a management major, with a minor in economics. She is a 2006 graduate of Hedgesville High School. Miller is the granddaughter of Jesse Smith and the daughter of Terry Litz and Vince Miller.

Martinsburg resident Allison Speaker is a political science major. She is a 2006 graduate of Jefferson High School. Speaker is the daughter of Homer Speaker and Leota Trainor.

McMurran Scholars must complete a minimum of 92 semester hours, maintain at least a 3.8 grade point average, complete two consecutive semesters of study at Shepherd, and be nominated by at least three faculty members.

Nominees must then be approved by the faculty at large. The award was created in 1961 in honor of Joseph McMurran, Shepherd's first principal.

Four Jefferson County residents named McMurran Scholars

SHEPHERDSTOWN — Four Jefferson County residents were among 20 Shepherd University students named McMurran Scholars, the university's highest academic honor.

An academic convocation was held on April 30 to honor the new McMurrans inductees.

Shepherdstown resident Christopher Goodell is a Spanish major with a minor in English. He is a 2002 graduate of Jefferson High School, and the son of Stephen and Theresa Goodell.

Charles Town resident Jeremiah Pepper is a computer science major. He is a 2006 graduate of Jefferson High School, and the son of Charles and Kathleen Pepper.

Harpers Ferry resident Anthony Smith is a double major in business administration (entrepreneurship) and economics. He is a 2007 graduate of Jefferson High School, and the son of Thomas and Dawn Smith.

Ranson resident Tania Thornton is a nursing major. She is a graduate of Seneca Valley High School in Germantown, Md. She is the daughter of Monica and Terry Thornton.

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From staff reports
Clyde Montgomery David Eggleton receives a congratulatory hug from his father, Clyde Montgomery, photo at left, after earning his bachelor's degree in business at the 137th Commencement at Shepherd University. Beach balls are batted around at the conclusion of Saturday's graduation ceremony in Shepherdstown.
A week for proms, graduations, and yard sales

What a beautiful weekend for Shepherd University Graduation; Jefferson High School Prom; numerous yard sales; a chance for folks to work in their yards and gardens. I drove up to the 4-H Camp Frame for their annual Chicken BBQ with proceeds going to the upkeep of the camp with the 4-H camps starting in June. This was also an opportunity for new first year campers and their parents to tour the facility. Greeted by Berkeley County 4-H Agent Doug Hovatter, he gave an assurance to those present on the security of the camp, daily routines, food served in the dining hall and other activities during the week. He also stressed a first year camper not only has reservations but it takes a toll on parents being away from their siblings.

Teen leaders broke off into the four tribes, Delaware, Seneca, Mingo and Chero-

Kearneysville

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knee with the new campers and older ones with a tour of the girl’s and boys’ dorms, assembly hall, dining hall, swimming pool, Seneca Rock, the council circle, plus the outdoor sports facilities. The BBQ was good too........A note to add, all the above mentioned is by volunteers.

Born in 1941

Have you ever thought about what prices were the year you were born compared to today? I was sorting a file and came across a book “1941 Remember When”, my birth year, a nostalgic look back in time. In 1941 the National News told Franklin Roosevelt was inaugurated for a third term; M&M’s Plain chocolate Candies and Cheerios (renamed Cheerios in 1946) are first introduced; Bob Hope performs his first USO show at March Field in California and one of the main headlines was: Japanese kill over 2,000 seamen at Pearl Harbor.

Sports News in 1941, the New York Yankees as World Series Champions; Floyd Davis and Mauri Rose at 115-117 MPH won the Indianapolis 500. Of special interest 1941 Cost of Living. A new home cost $4,075; average income was $1,777.00 per year; a new car was only $850; you could rent for $32 a month; 30 cents to go see a movie; and lastly among the listed items, gas was 12 cents a gallon and to mail a letter 3 cents. My how times have changed. I will continue with prices of food, famous people, music and much more.

Leaving you with this thought: The richness of life lies in the memories we have forgotten. That’s all for this week.
Two honored at Student Recognition Day

SHEPHERDSTOWN, WV—Two Jefferson County residents were honored at Shepherd University’s 62nd annual Student Recognition Day on Thursday, April 29.

Katelyn Stoneberger, Harpers Ferry, received the Joanna Blundell Art Scholarship Outstanding Freshman in Art Award, and Norman Leonard Guice, Shepherdstown, received the Freshman Class Award.

Softball camp

Leslie Lopez, Shepherd University’s women’s softball coach will direct this camp for girls this summer. Participants will learn how to play softball from Shepherd coaches and players. Participants may learn batting, catching, throwing, base running, and more. All participants must bring a glove, proper shoes, snack and a water bottle to camp each day. This camp is for ages 6 - 17, running Monday - Thursday, June 21-24, from 8 - 11 a.m. The cost is $85, but if you register by June 1 you can receive $20 off of the fee. Register online at jcoprc.org.
Forging ahead

Dr. Roland Bergman, professor of geography, leads a line of graduates from the Wellness Center to the Butcher Center Auditorium for Shepherd University’s commencement ceremonies Saturday.
SU announces 2010 sports camps

June 5
High School Football Skills Camp hosted by Shepherd University Athletics. For more information and to register your camper, go to www.shepherdbook.com or call (304) 876-5219.

June 21-25
Girls' Lacrosse Day Camp hosted by Shepherd University Athletics. For more information and to register your camper, go to www.shepherdbook.com or call (304) 876-5219.

June 21-25
Soccer Co-ed Day Camp hosted by Shepherd University Athletics. For more information and to register your camper, go to www.shepherdbook.com or call (304) 876-5219.

July 7-9
Softball Day Camp hosted by Shepherd University Athletics. For more information and to register your camper, go to www.shepherdbook.com or call (304) 876-5219.

July 11-14
Girls' Basketball Camp hosted by Shepherd University with NIKE. For more information, go to www.shepherdbook.com.

July 15-18
Volleyball High Intensity Camp hosted by Shepherd University Athletics. For more information and to register your camper, go to www.shepherdbook.com or call (304) 876-5219.
Where is W.Va. in the ‘Race to the Top’?

The Doyle Report

By Delegate John Doyle

As this is being written, the State Legislature has assembled in special session to evaluate Governor Joe Manchin’s proposed to reform K-12 education in our state.

This is an effort to win federal money in the “Race to the Top,” a program started by the United States Department of Education to motivate states to transform their public education systems with innovative ideas. One round has already been held, Delaware and Tennessee were the winners.

West Virginia did not even make the list of about a dozen semifinalists in the first round. Approximately three dozen states participated.

“Race to the Top” is the brainchild of Arne Duncan, appointed by President Barack Obama as Secretary of the United States Department of Education. Duncan had been Superintendent of Schools in the City of Chicago for several years prior to becoming Secretary of Education.

Duncan established a reputation for himself as a school innovator during his tenure as head of Chicago’s school system. Among other things, he started a number of “charter” schools there. Secretary Duncan seems to believe so strongly in charter schools that many presume no state can win any money from “Race to the Top” without including charter schools as part of its innovation program. Duncan also seems to believe that any innovation program worth its salt should have “buy-in” from organizations representing public school teachers.

This may be possible in other states, but it will be a tall order in West Virginia. The West Virginia Education Association (WVEA), our state’s affiliate of the National Education Association (and the largest group representing teachers here) is adamantly opposed to charter schools.

While I don’t agree with the WVEA on every issue, I personally share the general organization’s suspicion of the effectiveness of charter schools.

Charter schools, properly defined, are schools run by private entities under contract with the state or the local school district. While they are ostensibly free of many of the rules that apply to public schools, they also lack the accountability to the public that truly public schools have.

The use of charter schools is related to (but not the same as) the issue of “school choice.” School choice gives parents the ability to decide which school their children will attend. Offering a charter school as an alternative in addition to multiple public schools makes the range of options greater.

This concept works much better in urban and suburban areas than it does in rural areas. In rural areas, people are too dispersed to be close enough to more than one school for “choice” to work for most of them.

While Jefferson County has become somewhat more “urbanized” than was the case forty years ago, we’re still much more rural than anything else. Demographers consider areas like ours “exurban,” which is more rural than “suburban,” but not really “rural.”

Would charter schools work in Jefferson County? Let’s presume, just for grins, that we’re only talking about elementary schools.

The first question we should ask ourselves is how many charter schools would we need to guarantee that each parent in our county would have a charter elementary near enough that it would make sense to choose a “charter” over a “public.”

The next question should be whether or not these “charter” schools would be in addition to all the public elementary schools we now maintain, if not, which public elementary schools should become charter elementary? Would it be fair to rule out “choice” and decree that certain schools would become charter schools (keeping the same districts that we now have)? Some people who prefer a “charter” for their children might end up with a “public,” and vice versa.

Some folks have...
might be able to derive such a plan.

I'm convinced we need to reform our public schools. But I'm not convinced we need to contract out their operation to do it.

Another idea getting some attention in this session is "performance" pay for teachers. Secretary Duncan seems to also like this idea a lot. It may be possible to come up with a performance pay plan that can get teacher buy-in. It depends on the details. Exactly how is the "performance" to be measured?

Enhanced health screening for school children is also being considered by the Legislature in the special session. Many believe that the increasingly poor health of school age children is part of the explanation for our country's flagging educational statistics. Thirty years ago the United States was the most well educated country in the world. Today we're not even in the top dozen. But how do we beef up health screening without being too intrusive? Aye, there's the rub.

— Delegate John Doyle, D-Jefferson, represents the 57th District in the West Virginia House of Delegates.