Shepherd teacher given music award

SHEPHERDISTOWN – Mark Andrew Cook, assistant professor of music and director of music theory and composition at Shepherd University, has been named as the West Virginia Music Teachers Association (WVMTA) Commissioned Composer for 2012.

Cook has begun to work on a song cycle for soprano and piano. Wishing to explore relevant subject materials, Cook sought the advice of Dr. Sylvia Bailey Sturbutt, Shepherd professor of English and Appalachian Heritage Writer in Residence project director. Sturbutt suggested the Anthology of Appalachian Writers as a source, as well as Shepherd faculty members and the Appalachian Heritage Writer in Residence Ron Rash.

Shepherd alumni Lawren Hill and Jason Solomnix have agreed to perform the cycle at the 2012 WVMTA Conference, held at Shepherd in October.

Cook graduated from the Peabody Conservatory with a degree in music education and Catholic University with a master’s degree and doctorate in music theory. He came to Shepherd in 2005. Cook performs throughout the region and is in demand as a jazz clinician and adjudicator.
Shepherd teacher honored

Robert Parkinson appointed as Endowed Chair in history

SHEPHERDSTOWN — The Shepherd University Foundation is pleased to announce the appointment of Robert Parkinson as the Ray and Madeline Johnston Endowed Chair in American History. Parkinson is a tenured associate professor of history at Shepherd. A reception was held on Shepherd’s campus following a Board of Governors meeting on Thursday, April 19 in recognition of this outstanding achievement.

Endowed in 2007 by local business leaders Ray and Madeline Johnston, the faculty excellence award was Shepherd’s first endowed chair. This is the first time the award has been made.

After receiving his B.A. and M.A. from the University of Tennessee, Parkinson earned his Ph.D. at the University of Virginia. He was the first UVA doctoral graduate to receive the NEH Postdoctoral Fellowship from the Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture. The fellowship was completed at the College of William & Mary. Parkinson is the author of a number of scholarly essays and articles about the American Revolution and our founding fathers and recently published his first book titled, “The Common Cause: Race, Nation, and the Consequences of Unity in the American Revolution.”

Published by the North Carolina Press, it is a study of the racial differences that emerged from the Revolution and the way war and politics played a role in that emergence.

“This is the most prestigious honor that can be bestowed upon a young scholar engaged in the study of early American history,” said Anders Henrikson, chair of Shepherd’s Department of History. “Robert is a gifted teacher whom the students find inspiring. We feel lucky to have him as a colleague.”

Upon receiving his award, Parkinson said, “I am deeply honored to hold the first endowed chair of history at Shepherd University. I am especially grateful to the Johnstons for recognizing the importance of research, study, and teaching of American history.”

Ray and Madeline Johnston were both born into large families during the Great Depression. They were raised to value education and received excellent educations themselves through the public school system. Following service in the U.S. Navy, Ray financed his college education using the GI Bill of Rights, earning a B.S. and M.A. from the University of Northern Iowa. Ray later became a history teacher and state legislator.

In addition to establishing The Woods Resort in Hedgesville, the Johnstons have served as leaders in economic development through their associations with the Martinsburg-Berkeley County Chamber of Commerce, Eastern Panhandle Homebuilders Association and the Martinsburg-Berkeley County Visitors and Convention Bureau. Ray, founder of the West Virginia Governor’s Conference on Housing, brought statewide attention to the Eastern Panhandle through his service with the Home Builders Association of West Virginia.

The Ray and Madeline Johnston Endowed Chair in American History demonstrates the Johnstons’ commitment to excellence in teaching and the role faculty play in guiding and inspiring students. “We want to show our gratitude for what public education has done for us,” said Ray upon endowing the chair in 2007.

Surrounded by her family at the April 19 reception, Ray’s wife Madeline was delighted to see her late husband’s vision being realized with the chair’s first appointment.

“We are all pleased the endowed chair has been awarded to Dr. Parkinson and wish that Ray was here to witness this event,” she said. “Our entire family has always been focused on education, but none more so than Ray, who taught history for many years.”

Endowed chairs provide funds to enable Shepherd University to recruit, recognize and retain exceptional faculty scholars and academic leaders. They are at the top of the funding level, followed by endowed professorships and endowed lectureships.

“This is an area in which Shepherd was poised to move,” said Ramon A. Alvarez, president of the Shepherd University Foundation. “On behalf of the Foundation board and staff, we are all extremely proud of the Johnstons for moving forward and being the first to start the endowed chair.”

“This is a historic milestone for Shepherd University. The Johnston name will always be associated with heightened educational excellence for our deserving students,” said President Suzanne Shipley, who added, “Dr. Parkinson is highly deserving of this honor.”

To learn more about establishing a faculty excellence award through the Shepherd University Foundation, please contact Monica Lingenfelter, Shepherd University Foundation, P.O. Box 5000, Shepherdstown, WV. 25443-5000, 304-876-5387, mlingenfelter@shepherd.edu or visit www.shepherd.edu/indnwweb.
Shepherd to host grant webinar

SHEPHERDSTOWN - Shepherd University’s Scarborough Library will host a grant webinar on Thursday, May 10 at 1 p.m. designed for nonprofit organizations and individuals seeking grants. The webinar, presented by the Foundation Center, will provide an overview of the research funding process and offer tips on how best to identify funding sources, including electronic and print resources available on the Foundation Center website and at the Scarborough Library.

The event is free and open to the public, but advance registration is required. Contact Christy Toms, library learning assistant, at ctoms@shepherd.edu to register or for additional information.

The Foundation Center is the leading source of information about philanthropy worldwide. It maintains a comprehensive database on U.S. and global grant makers and their grants and operates research, education and training programs for grant seekers. The Shepherd University Scarborough Library is a Foundation Center Cooperating Collection and is equipped with the resources to help nonprofits and individual grant seekers find funding.
Black educators' group examines schooling

By ANDREW SCHOTZ
andrews@herald-mail.com
7:09 p.m. EDT, April 28, 2012

Saturday wasn’t a school day at South Hagerstown High School, but it was a time for a talk about education, particularly for African-American students.

The Washington County Alliance of Black School Educators hosted a half-day summit, a sign that the group has been revived and is trying to provoke thoughtful debate.

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After a keynote speech in the morning, participants divided into three groups to talk about college admission and scholarships for students of color, academics for disadvantaged students and "learning by doing."

An afternoon panel discussion with several general questions concluded the event.

Washington County’s chapter of the National Alliance of Black School Educators started about three years ago, hit a lull and has re-emerged, said Brenda Thiam, the local
County Public Schools.

Saturday’s forum was a way to publicize the group and its initiatives, said Lee Brooks, the local chapter’s secretary and a student intervention specialist.

Asked how Washington County can recruit and retain a diverse group of educators, Albert Thompson of The Leadership and Learning Center suggested paying attention to data on minority students’ achievements.

Thomas C. Seagar, vice president for student affairs and associate graduate professor at Shepherd University in Shepherdstown, W.Va., said he wants to see Washington County recruiting on his campus.

He said many Shepherd students come from Washington County and would like to return to their home district for teaching jobs.

Timothy Dawson, South High’s principal, said Washington County’s school board was “courageous” in choosing a district outsider as the new superintendent — Clayton Wilcox, who is Hispanic — and the district has shown signs of becoming more diverse.

He was reluctant, though, to say minority teachers are always needed to teach minority students, although some students have been conditioned to think that way, he said.

“I’ll tell you what I’m looking for,” Dawson said. “I’m looking for the best teacher.”

Most panelists agreed that parents should take an active role in their children’s success.

Charles Herring, a South High senior, said parents should help teach children at home.

Seagar urged teachers to give direction to parents and make them feel accountable.

Kimberly Crawford, owner of Zodiac Hair Expressions and mother of an elementary school student, said it sets a bad example for parents to shirk their duties, forcing teachers to pick up the slack.

“What that student learns at home, he’s going to take it back to school,” she said.

Parents have to want and comfortable talking about problems with school officials, said Joan E. Cephas, owner of Timing & Associates LLC, an education consulting company.

Thompson argued that many of today’s students are missing the parental figures that were standard in previous generations.

When teachers ask, “What about the parents?,” Thompson said. “I say, ‘When you can find ‘em, let me know. ’Til then, we have lives to save.”
CATF to Present New Work From Bob Clyman, Neil LaBute and More in Upcoming Season

by BWW News Desk

The Contemporary American Theater Festival (CATF) at Shepherd University has announced the 2012 five-play repertory for its 22nd season of producing and developing new American theater. The season will feature new plays from Johnna Adams, Bob Clyman, Neil LaBute, Evan M. Wiener, and Bess Wohl. The four-week festival, consisting of 94 performances and other programming, will be held July 6 – 29 in Shepherdstown, WV.

In addition to the plays—produced in rotating repertory, which allows audience members to see all five shows in just two days—the 2012 Season will also feature free lectures, stage readings, panels, and an art exhibition. Plus, patrons have the opportunity to purchase tickets to audience immersion events including lunches and workshops with artists, and breakfast with the Theater Festival’s producing director.

“The Contemporary American Theater Festival is the summer home of fearless, irreverent, brave, and provocative new plays,” said Founder and Producing Director Ed Herendeen. “We collaborate with some of the most important theater artists working today and discover the foremost artists of tomorrow. We push at the boundaries of what theater can be. We launch rigorous, adventurous, and passionate new works for the Contemporary Stage. The 2012 repertory continues the vibrant and electrifying conversation between our artists and our audiences that began 22 years ago. These five plays—filled with humor, anger, love, and lust—explore, examine, and celebrate the ethical, moral, and dangerous choices we face every day.”

The 2012 repertory includes two world premieres, two second productions, and a new play from one of the most well-known and daring writers for the stage and film. The plays are:

*Gideon’s Knot* by Johnna Adams. World Premiere. Directed by Ed Herendeen

*Over the course of an unexpected parent/teacher conference in a 5th grade classroom, a mother...*
and her son's teacher have a volatile conversation about Gidion. Was he a bully? A victim? A protector? Or, was his imagination too powerful a tool for the adults around him? As his story is uncovered, the women try to construct an explanation for his behavior and come to terms with who, or what, is at fault. Gidion's Knot is a heart-wrenching, devastatingly beautiful work about the power of words and freedom of expression. It explores the dangerous, emotional, and often painful world of elementary school.

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Five years after participating in a fertility program experiment, two mothers, with distinctly different backgrounds, are faced with complicated choices surrounding their extraordinarily gifted children. In the near future, this wonderfully smart play of high-stakes social experimentation sheds light upon the competitive sport of parenting and raises the question: how far would you go to provide your child every possible opportunity? Gwen and Allie battle over their children’s - and their own - lots in life while learning that, perhaps, they need each other more than they realize to successfully raise their super babies.

Bob Clyman is a playwright and clinical psychologist. His work has appeared Off-Broadway and at Denver Center Theatre, Williamstown Theatre Festival, The Laguna Playhouse, and elsewhere. The Exceptionals premiered at Merrimack Repertory Theatre in 2011.

In A Forest, Dark and Deep by Neil LaBute. Directed by Ed Herendeen

In this compelling new play by the dark prince of the American stage and indie cinema, all Bobby thinks he is doing is helping his sister, a university dean, clear out her cottage in the woods. But in this cabin of lies, nothing is as it seems and the truth refuses to be packed away. Love, lust, and sibling rivalry escalate into a psychological thriller that bursts with savage conflict and insight into human relationships and moral failings. On this dark and stormy night, what is Betty hiding? And what will Bobby do when he finds out?

Neil LaBute's plays include The Shape of Things, reasons to be pretty, Fat Pig, and Wrecks (CATF '08). His films include In the Company of Men, Your Friends and Neighbors, and Possession. In A Forest, Dark and Deep premiered on London's West End in 2011.

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Evan M. Wiener is an emerging American voice for stage and film and a graduate of Columbia University; his screenplay *Monogamy* won top honors at the Tribeca Film Festival. *Captors* premiered at the Huntington Theatre and was a “critic’s pick” of *The Boston Globe*.

**Barcelona** by **Bess Wohl**.

In *The Shadows* of Gaudi’s Sagrada Familia, Barcelona’s famous cathedral, an American woman drunkenly goes home with a Spanish stranger. In what begins as a wine-drenched, carefree one-night-stand of cross-cultural lust and libation, soon embarks a dangerous lesson in consequence, truth, and moving on. In this funny, sensual, and elegant work, there unfolds a surprising story that tears down the artificial borders of a global world, while proving the universal struggle of healing the human heart.

*Barcelona* is produced as part of a rolling world premiere agreement between the Contemporary American Theater Festival and People’s Light & Theatre in Malvern, PA.

*Bess Wohl* writes for theater, film, and television. Her play *Touched* was recently produced at the *Williamstown Theatre* Festival and other work has been seen at The Vineyard Theater, Pittsburgh Public Theater, and Northlight Theater. Also an actor, she received her M.F.A. from the Yale School of Drama.

Matinee and evening performances are held Wednesday – Sunday throughout the Festival. Single ticket prices to the 2012 repertory are $55. Four-show and five-show ticket packages (Rep Passes) are available, ranging from $100-$230. All performances take place at various venues on the Shepherd University campus.

In addition to the production schedule, the Theater Festival will again return with numerous ancillary events for audiences and community members. For purchase, patrons can attend:

- **Breakfast with Ed**: a continental-style breakfast and discussion with CATF’s Founder and Producing Director Ed Herendeen that allows for in-depth discussion about the plays, the craft of theater, and the inner-workings of the Festival. $25.00
- **Lunch & Art**: Introduced in 2011 and expanded in 2012 to seven unique events, these intimate lunch forums pair up audience members and the CATF artist company and allows the community to learn more about their careers and path to Shepherdstown. These lunches, which sold-out last year, provide a unique perspective into the lives of the directors, designers, actors, and technicians who create the Festival each summer, and feature the menus of several local restaurants and eateries. $30.00
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All ticketed performances and programs can be purchased through the Theater Festival Box Office, which is open off-season Monday to Friday from noon to 5 p.m., by calling 800-999-CATF (2283), or 24-hours a day online by visiting www.catf.org/boxoffice.
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A 501(c)3 nonprofit, the Contemporary American Theater Festival has enjoyed major grant support from the State of West Virginia, The Shubert Foundation, Ted Snowden Foundation, National Endowment for the Arts, The Weissberg Foundation, West Virginia Humanities Council, The Max and Victoria Dreyfus Foundation, The Nora Roberts Foundation, and the Venturous Theater Fund of the Tides Foundation. The Theater Festival operates under a LORT D Actors’ Equity Association contract and has agreements with United Scenic Artists and the Stage Directors and Choreographers Society. The Theater Festival is hosted by Shepherd University, a public liberal arts institution founded in 1871.

Complete season information – including playwright bios, schedule, photos, and ticketing – is available at www.catf.org. Social media connections can be made at twitter.com/thinktheater and facebook.com/CATFatSU.

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Inspired by Eichmann In My Hands by Peter Z. Malkin and Harry Stein.

Evan M. Wiener is an emerging American voice for stage and film and a graduate of Columbia University; his screenplay Monogamy won top honors at the Tribeca Film Festival. Captors premiered at the Huntington Theatre and was a “critic’s pick” of The Boston Globe.

**Barcelona by Bess Wohl**
In the shadows of Gaudi’s Sagrada Familia, Barcelona’s famous cathedral, an American woman drunkenly goes home with a Spanish stranger. In what begins as a wine-drenched, carefree one-night-stand of cross-cultural lust and libation, soon embarks a dangerous lesson in consequence, truth, and moving on. In this funny, sensual, and elegant work, there unfolds a surprising story that tears down the artificial borders of a global world, while proving the universal struggle of healing the human heart.

Barcelona is produced as part of a rolling world premiere agreement between the Contemporary American Theater Festival and People’s Light & Theatre in Malvern, PA.

Bess Wohl writes for theater, film, and television. Her play Touched was recently produced at the Williamstown Theatre Festival and other work has been seen at The Vineyard Theater, Pittsburgh Public Theater, and Northlight Theater. Also an actor, she received her M.F.A. from the Yale School of Drama.

Matinee and evening performances are held Wednesday – Sunday throughout the Festival.
Single ticket prices to the 2012 repertory are $55. Four-show and five-show ticket packages (Rep Passes) are available, ranging from $100-$230. All performances take place at various venues on the Shepherd University campus.

In addition to the production schedule, the Theater Festival will again return with numerous ancillary events for audiences and community members. For purchase, patrons can attend:

- Breakfast with Ed: a continental-style breakfast and discussion with CATF's Founder and Producing Director Ed Herendeen that allows for in-depth discussion about the plays, the craft of theater, and the inner-workings of the Festival. $25.00
- Lunch & Art: Introduced in 2011 and expanded in 2012 to seven unique events, these intimate lunch forums pair up audience members and the CATF artist company and allows the community to learn more about their careers and path to Shepherdstown. These lunches, which sold-out last year, provide a unique perspective into the lives of the directors, designers, actors, and technicians who create the Festival each summer, and feature the menus of several local restaurants and eateries. $30.00
- Theater 4-1-1: New in 2012, these Saturday morning workshops will allow attendees to participate in the actual practice of making theater through an introductory class on playwriting, directing, design, and acting, taught by CATF professionals and guest artists. $30.00

Returning this year will be several free programs – "Humanities at the Festival" – which provide opportunities for CATF audiences to "talk theater" with each other, CATF artists, guest lecturers, and Festival leadership. The 2012 Humanities programming, annually supported by the West Virginia Humanities Council, will include an expanded stage reading series at the Shepherdstown Opera House; Saturday afternoon lectures; post-show discussions with actors; and brand new after-hours salons, held in the Bavarian Inn's Rathskellar, which will allow patrons to continue their conversation about the plays and the Festival experience beyond the shows and with CATF board members and staff.

All ticketed performances and programs can be purchased through the Theater Festival Box Office, which is open off-season Monday to Friday from noon to 5 p.m., by calling 800-999-CATF (2283), or 24-hours a day online by visiting http://www.catf.org/boxoffice.

Over the last 21 years, the Contemporary American Theater Festival at Shepherd University has become a leading center for the production and development of new plays, having fully staged 90 American works, including 34 world premieres, by 84 different playwrights. In 2011, the Theater Festival broke all box office records with a total attendance of 12,697, a 15% increase over the previous year. With a budget of more than $1 million, the Theater Festival brings patrons and visitors to West Virginia's Eastern Panhandle from 35 different states. A 2008 economic impact survey reported that the Theater Festival generates more than $2 million for the local economy each season.

A 501(c)3 nonprofit, the Contemporary American Theater Festival has enjoyed major grant support from the State of West Virginia, The Shubert Foundation, Ted Snowdon Foundation, National Endowment for the Arts, The Weissberg Foundation, West Virginia Humanities Council, The Max and Victoria Draylus Foundation, The Nora Roberts Foundation, and the Venturous Theater Fund of the Tides Foundation. The Theater Festival operates under a LORT D Actors' Equity Association contract and has agreements with United Scenic Artists and the Stage Directors and Choreographers Society. The Theater Festival is hosted by Shepherd University, a public liberal arts institution founded in 1871.

Complete season information – including playwright bios, schedule, photos, and ticketing – is available at http://www.catf.org. Social media connections can be made at twitter.com/thinktheater and facebook.com/CATFatSU.
HCC's multicultural recruiter stresses importance of perseverance

By JANET HEIM
janeth@herald-mail.com
5:46 p.m. EDT, April 30, 2012

HAGERSTOWN — Luis Flores is quick to admit he wasn’t much of a student in high school and struggled to find his way in college. While it took him about 10 years off and on to earn his undergraduate degree, Flores has become an advocate for higher education.

Just as he was finishing his bachelor’s degree at Shepherd University in Shepherdstown, W.Va., he was hired last May as the multicultural recruiter at Hagerstown Community College, a position he would have thought an unlikely fit years ago.

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“It’s ironic that as much as I hated school, here I am at a college. I saw the reality of things,” Flores said.

Instead, Flores, 31, can use his background to inspire students to persevere and make their dreams come true.

“At the end of the day, I was lucky to realize the importance of education,” said Flores, who is now considering getting a master’s degree.

Born in Mexico, close to the border of Monterey, Calif., Flores was 6 when his family moved to South America. They lived in several countries there before moving to Washington state when he was almost 14.

“I didn’t know any English. It’s been a lot of work,” Flores said.
Living in Brazil, there was a good mix of Spanish and Portuguese spoken, but English really threw Flores when the family moved to the United States, and he still struggled when he went to college in Michigan. His family moved to Michigan so his father could go to graduate school there.

Flores said he can relate to the English as a Second Language, or ESL, students at HCC, who are struggling to learn another language.

While he didn’t have an ESL program to help him in high school, Flores advises HCC students to take advantage of the ESL programs offered on campus and make mastering the language a priority before they plunge into English and writing classes that require a lot of reading and writing.

“The ESL students, I get the feeling they look up to me in a way. I’m not the first one who’s done it. If anything, the key is perseverance. You gotta get through it,” Flores said.

He visits high schools and businesses in the area with HCC Recruiting Coordinator Kevin Crawford and helps him with the Essence program for high school students. Their goal is to educate high school students about higher education, Flores said.

“I find my passion is really reaching minorities, immigrants,” said Flores, who said besides Hispanic students at HCC, there are students from Africa, Europe, Russia and Romania.

Flores also found a physical outlet that got him through the rough times — running. He and his best friend in Washington state ran together. When they got bored with that, they started doing triathlons.

Since he started running at 15, Flores has completed five full Ironman triathlons and at least 15 marathons. He is doing an Ironman in Louisville in August.

“Back then, it was kind of a nice outlet. I liked it and kept at it,” Flores said.

It was through running that Flores met his wife, Katie, while they were students at Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Mich. They married in 2006, and live in Keedysville with their 18-month-old son, Oliver.

Family life has changed Flores’ priorities, he said.

“It’s been a very interesting journey,” Flores said.
Shepherd student receives new award

April 30, 2012

SHEPHERDSTOWN - Shepherd University student Gabrielle Bartlett, of New Creek, is the first recipient of the Brian Noland Leadership Fellow award.

The award was presented to her during Shepherd’s annual Student Recognition Day on April 17.

Named in honor of Brian Noland, who served as the chancellor of the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission for five years before becoming the president of East Tennessee State University, the award provides a full-time tuition scholarship for the recipient’s senior year.

The scholarship award will rotate each year among state public colleges and universities in recognition of the impact Noland had on higher education during his tenure as the chancellor for the HEPC.

"Gabrielle's involvement in campus activities makes her a worthy recipient of the Noland Fellow award," said Shepherd University President Suzanne Shipley. "Shepherd is proud to present her with this inaugural award established to honor Dr. Noland’s contributions to higher education leadership."

The recipient of the award is a student leader who has effectively contributed to the strength of the institution through civic engagement, scholarship and artistic or athletic accomplishments as determined by the institution giving the award.
MBA program announces council

May 2, 2012
journal-news.net

SHEPHERDSTOWN - Shepherd University's Master of Business Administration program coordinator, William "Chip" Zimmer, has announced the formation of an advisory council.

"The advisory council was formed to help develop and grow relationships between the business community, MBA alums, current MBA students, and faculty," Zimmer said. "We've been fortunate to attract an impressive cross section of the region's business leaders to help us guide the Shepherd MBA program to become a foundational cornerstone in the economic growth of the region."

The council is composed of 14 members including seven leaders in business and industry. Members include Monica Lockett, executive director of the Canterbury Center in Shepherdstown; Randy Collins, executive director of the Top of Virginia Chamber of Commerce in Winchester, Va.; Jack Deuterman, CEO of Corporate Research Inc., Jamestown, N.C.; Kelley Everett, senior vice president of First Data in Hagerstown, Md.; Kathy Klein, chief contractor, U.S. Coast Guard Operations, Shepherdstown; Steve Lynch, president of McShea Residential Services in Frederick, Md.; Tony Price, partner with Cox/HollidayPC accountants in Martinsburg; alumni representative Amanda Kepko, of the Office of Management and Budget; and Bob Adams, student representative.

Faculty representatives include Caroline Glackin, Department of Business Administration, and Joey Xie, Department of Economics and Finance. Scott Beard, dean of graduate studies, and Monica Ligenfelter, executive vice president of the Shepherd University Foundation, are ex-officio members.

"As a business professional in the health care field, I am interested in the quality and availability of advanced education in our local area," Lockett said. "It is also a unique opportunity for me to interact with some true business experts."

Council members met with nearly 100 potential and current MBA students and alumni at a "Meet and Greet" held in conjunction with Shepherd's annual Professional Connections Day.

The MBA program, which began in 2005, is the largest graduate program at Shepherd with nearly 100 students and offers a general MBA degree as well as degrees with emphasis in health care administration and accounting. The council has endorsed the creation of an annual MBA/Shepherd University political debate to be held each fall as well as the investigation of the creation of a Shepherd University pol.

For additional information about Shepherd's M.B.A. program, call Shepherd's Division of Graduate Studies at 304-876-5313 or visit www.shepherd.edu/graduate-studies/mba.
Shepherd University

SHEPHERDSTOWN - Mark Andrew Cook, assistant professor of music and director of music theory and composition at Shepherd University, was selected to be the West Virginia Music Teachers Association's Commissioned Composer for 2012.

Cook began work on a song cycle for soprano and piano. He connected with Sylva Bailey Shuburt, the Shepherd professor of English who also serves as the Appalachian Heritage Writer in Residence project director. Shuburt suggested the Anthology of Appalachian Writers as a source, as well as Shepherd faculty members and the Appalachian Heritage Writer in Residence Ron Rash.

Shepherd alumni Lauren Hill and Jason Solounias have agreed to perform the cycle at the 2012 WAMTA Conference, to be held at Shepherd in October.

Cook graduated from the Peabody Conservatory with a degree in music education and Catholic University with a master's degree and doctorate in music theory.

After coming to Shepherd in 2005, Cook began to perform throughout the region and is in demand as a jazz clinician and adjudicator. He is a guest lecturer in music theory and composition at the Barbara Ingram School of the Arts in Hagerstown, Md.

EAST

SHEPHERDSTOWN

MBA advisers: An MBA advisory council has been formed at Shepherd University, according to William “Chip” Zimmer, who coordinates the school’s program.

Fourteen people, including several regional leaders in business and industry, serve on the council, including Monica Lockett, executive director of the Canterbury Center in Shepherdstown; Randy Collins, executive director of the Top of Virginia Chamber of Commerce in Winchester, Va.; Jack Deuterman, CEO of Corporate Research Inc. in Jamestown, N.C.;Kelley Everett, senior vice president of First Data in Hagerstown, Md.; Kathy Klein, chief contractor at Coast Guard Operations in Shepherdstown; Steve Lynch, president of McShea Residential Services in Frederick, Md.; Tony Price, a partner with CoxHollidaPrice accountants in Martinsburg; alumni representative Amanda Kepko of the Office of Management and Budget; and Bob Adams, student representative.

Faculty representatives include Caroline Glackin, Department of Business Administration, and Joey Xie, Department of Economics and Finance. Scott Beard, dean of graduate studies, and Monica Ligenfelter, executive vice president of the Shepherd University Foundation, are ex officio members.

The MBA program, which began in 2005, is the largest graduate program at Shepherd with nearly 100 students.
Ethics Commission confirms Thompson decision
By Phil Kabler
CHARLESTON, W.Va. – Formalizing their decision from last month, state Ethics Commission members Thursday ruled that House of Delegates Speaker Rick Thompson would be violating the state Ethics Act if he became a contract attorney for the West Virginia Education Association.

Afterward, Thompson told the Gazette he believes the decision could effectively prohibit the House speaker and Senate president from having any employment outside the Legislature.

While recognizing that most members of a part-time citizen Legislature will have employment outside public service, the Ethics Commission ruled Thursday that the presiding officers of the House and Senate should be held to a higher standard.

The House speaker and Senate president have significant control over the legislative process, commissioners said. They preside over floor sessions, appoint committee chairpersons and committee members, refer bills to committees, and head the powerful Rules Committee – which can effectively kill legislation on a simple voice vote.

"By virtue of his position as presiding officer, the requester has far more power than all but one other member of the Legislature," the advisory opinion states.

Thompson, D-Wayne, said after the meeting that he requested the opinion to get clarification about outside employment, but said of the decision, "It hasn't answered a lot of questions, and it raises a lot more questions.

"I think you could read it that it prohibits all outside employment," Thompson said. "I don't know if that's what they meant, but it certainly could be interpreted that way."

In the decision, Ethics Commission members said that if Thompson accepted the WVEA position, it would create an "inescapable conflict" between his duties as an elected official, the interests of the WVEA, and the interests of his constituents.

"Permitting a presiding officer to accept the equivalent of a general counsel position with the WVEA may have a chilling effect on free and full discussion in legislative sessions," the decision states. "Additionally, the public may perceive that the association has hired the requester because of his unique ability to influence legislation. Further, other associations that do not employ a high-ranking member of the Legislature may believe that they are at a disadvantage in the legislative process."

During discussion, Commissioner Robert Wolfe said of the speaker and president, "They have chosen to take that position, with an increase in compensation. They chose to set themselves apart to run for those offices."

In addition to the $20,000 base salary for legislators, the speaker and president draw an additional $150-a-day pay during legislative sessions and for any days they attend to legislative matters out-of-session. In 2011, Thompson was paid a total of $52,100, while Senate President Jeff Kessler, D-Marshall, made $48,200.

In a separate opinion, Ethics Commission members said Thursday that Delegate John Doyle, D-Jefferson, can become a paid consultant for Shepherd University.

Doyle, who is not seeking re-election after 22 years in the House, said he will have a one-year contract with Shepherd, working on several issues, including establishing an off-campus adult education center for the Eastern Panhandle college.

Commissioners said the fact that Doyle will retire from the Legislature in December was part of
their decision to allow him to enter into the consulting contract, effective June 1.

"If he were ... running for re-election or going to be in office next year, I don't think it would pass the smell test," Commissioner Terry Walker said.

**911 site purchaseixed**

Also Thursday, commissioners said it would violate the state Ethics Act for the Nicholas County Commission to buy property from a member of the county Building Commission for the county's new 911 center.

Nicholas County commissioners have entered into an option to buy the property from Building Commission member Steve Ferguson, but sought the opinion after public criticism of the agreement at a recent commission meeting.

In the advisory opinion, which was approved unanimously, commissioners said the land sale would violate state code 61-10-15, which prohibits county officials from having a private interest in public contracts. That holds true even if the County Commission bypassed the Building Commission in finalizing the purchase of the property.

The opinion notes that the County Commission could seek an exemption if they could prove there are no suitable alternative locations available, and that the prohibition would pose an undue financial hardship for the county.

"At this point, we don't have enough information to treat this as a contract exemption," Ethics Commission Chairman Kemp Morton said.

In fact, county commissioners had identified another viable location for the 911 center -- the county-owned Glade Creek Basiacess Park near Summersville.

"I wonder why they want to purchase additional property when the county already owns property in the business park that would be ideal for this center?" Walker asked.
State colleges hope credit cap boosts graduation rates

by Dave Boucher
Daily Mail Staff

CHARLESTON, W.Va. - Four of five students at Shepherd University don't graduate within four years, and fewer than half, 46 percent, graduate within six years, according to school data.

However, Shepherd is ahead of the curve compared to the 43.8 percent average six-year graduation rate for West Virginia universities, according to the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems.

The national six-year graduation rate is 55.5 percent.

Getting students into the workforce in a timely manner is a problem facing colleges across the country, said Dr. Kathy Butler, vice chancellor of academic affairs for the state Higher Education Policy Commission.

Butler said the commission is encouraging universities to streamline academic programs so that all bachelor's degrees require 120 credit hours. Associate degrees are to require 60 credit hours.

Different majors can require different numbers of credit hours. According to a national study, the average student has 137 credit hours upon graduation.

"This 120-degree movement ... has forced us to look at what is important in a program," Butler said.

Shepherd is leading the pack in streamlining programs. Although Butler said every university in West Virginia is moving toward the 120-credit hour system, Shepherd has initiated its own redesigned curriculum.

That change went into effect in the fall, and the results were "a little unexpected," admitted Kimberly Scranage, Shepherd's vice president of enrollment management.

When offered the chance to adopt the new curriculum, 62 seniors were able to graduate earlier than expected, she said.

While none of those students graduated in less than four years, each was able to forgo a semester, Scranage said.

"With students being able to get out in a timely fashion, (they) won't have to borrow as much money," she said.

The cost of education and the amount of credit needed to earn a degree are some of the biggest factors working against students graduating on time, Scranage said.

Some programs require hefty amounts of credit, and Shepherd found that "students couldn't get it all in in four years," she said.

Many circumstances could lead to a student graduating late, Scranage and Butler said. Some students change majors, faculty or departments sometimes insist on splitting up classes or requiring more classes for graduation or a student might need to take remedial courses.

Looking back on her time as provost at Glenville State University, Butler said some students took classes that were fun but didn't count directly toward a degree.
"What they did is they took underwater basket weaving," Butler said. "They'll fill (their schedule) with things that really don't help them get their degree."

Her statements fall in line with a 2010 report from the Southern Regional Education Board. Entitled "No Time to Waste," the report suggests several ways colleges can shorten the time it takes to graduate. Butler said it served as the inspiration for the commission's 120-credit hour push.

In addition to the limit on credit hours, it encourages administrators and faculty to look for ways to efficiently combine or remove programs while still providing students with the training they need. Students also need to be held accountable for delayed graduation, according to the report.

"Students must also do their part to reduce excess courses by limiting the number of credits they take above the required minimum," the report states.

Butler admits such recommendations reflect a shift in higher education focus - from academic and personal growth to job training.

And while she thinks the college experience still will offer personal maturation and social exposure, students shouldn't forget about their professional training.

"West Virginia is in need of college graduates," she said. "The key to building the economy in West Virginia is education."

As a part of the revamped class structure, freshmen will take a one-credit course during their first semester to help them transition into college life, said Dr. Richard Helldobler, vice president of academic affairs at Shepherd.

Students will get to know each other as they learn time management and study skills, he said.

Seniors will attend the classes to talk to new students about their majors. The idea is to let freshmen figure out sooner rather than later if they should change direction and perhaps keep themselves on track to graduate on time.

Helldobler said Shepherd trimmed the average graduation requirements from 128 credit hours to 120 hours. Specifically, the core curriculum requirements were reduced from 48 to 42 credit hours. The change was achieved through a combination or redesign of some introductory level classes, he said.

Employer recommendations also were taken into account, he said.

The Association of American Colleges and Universities found that employers were looking for students with better oral and written communication skills.

So Shepherd reduced the number of required literature courses but introduced one that was more writing intensive.

The new system will have students taking five courses worth three credit hours each per semester. Helldobler said the new curriculum requires fewer credit hours but provides more class choices for students to meet degree requirements.

"It's really a philosophical shift," he said. "The faculty offers choices, but the students choose. . . . We want students to be in meaningful courses."

Shepherd administrators and Butler said they've had positive feedback from both faculty and students.

They agreed the new format could make Shepherd more competitive in recruiting. Butler thinks the competition will encourage other colleges to implement similar systems.

If the competition doesn't result in curriculum change, the policy commission will weigh in.
Butler said each of the state's public universities must adopt the 120-credit hour system before their five-year review in 2017.

However, she thought sanctions for failure to do so were unlikely. She thinks universities will comply because of the potential bumps in graduation rates and overall student success.

"It's a good thing to do," Butler said. "It's not an easy thing to do. It causes us to take that hard look, but that's a good thing."
New ethics rule takes aim at top lawmakers

CHARLESTON, W.Va. - The West Virginia Ethics Commission on Thursday formally prevented House Speaker Rick Thompson from becoming a lawyer for a teachers union, a decision that set new and higher ethical standards for the speaker and also the Senate president.

The commission also left the door open to taking similar action against other high-ranking lawmakers, something that could have unforeseen implications for committee chairmen who have day jobs.

Thompson, D-Wayne, and Senate President Jeff Kessler, D-Marshall, met at the Capitol shortly after the decision was released.

After the meeting, both said in separate interviews that the decision concerned them.

Thompson and Kessler said the Ethics Commission hasn’t made clear what it is attempting to do, what its new standard is or who the new standard applies to.

The ruling released Thursday was targeted at Thompson, who was attempting to become a contract lawyer for the West Virginia Education Association.

The attempt by one of the state’s most powerful men to take a job with one of the state’s most powerful lobbying groups raised eyebrows.

Thursday's six-page written decision prohibits Thompson from taking the job and remaining the speaker. Thompson has said he would not continue to seek the WVEA job. But he’s now unclear who he can do legal work for because so many groups have business with the Legislature.

The opinion itself applies only to House speaker and the Senate president and not other members. But the head of the commission and the commission's general counsel both made comments to suggest other legislative officials should now be concerned that their day jobs will create "inescapable conflicts."

Depending on what happens, other lawmakers could be forced to choose between their jobs and elective offices.

"We don't know how things will shake out in the future, whether other members of the Legislature, depending on their rank, will feel like they will need to come before the commission or not," general counsel Joan Parker said.

Chairman Kemp Morton said the commission has "the freedom to adjudicate these on a case-by-case basis, should the need arise, or should someone be compelled to ask."

Other rank-and-file members have known conflicts, including one senator who is the head of an interest group that represents doctors, a House member who is a union representative and at least one senator who works at a law firm that lobbies the Legislature.

Kessler said he didn't know where the Ethics Commission intends to draw the line. He noted other members, including committee and subcommittee chairmen, have decisive powers at times.
Ethics Commission staffers had originally recommended Thompson be allowed to work for the WVEA but not get involved with matters related to the union's positions. The Ethics Commission rejected that recommendation last month and ordered its staff to write a new opinion to prohibit Thompson from taking the job.

Thursday's meeting formalized that decision, and the commission approved the six-page ruling.

The ruling said the presiding officers in the House and Senate should be held to a higher standard than other lawmakers because of the awesome power they wield.

It also said if Thompson took the WVEA job, it could have a "chilling effect on free and full discussion in legislative sessions" because lawmakers would be afraid to say behind closed doors something that he could pass along to the union.

The ruling also said "the public may perceive that" the WVEA hired Thompson "because of his unique ability to influence legislation."

But both Thompson and Kessler said the decision, as well as Parker and Morton's comments, left it unclear how the ruling would apply in other cases.

"What I've read, I still don't fully understand it," Thompson said. "I have a lot of questions after reading the opinion."

Thompson noted that he temporarily allowed Delegate Mitch Carmichael to become the presiding officer last year. Carmichael works for Verizon, a company with significant dealings with the state.

"Was I allowed to do that?" Thompson said. "So, in my role as speaker, I've got those kinds of questions."

He wondered what clients he could take as a lawyer.

"Is it meant to say you can't take any client who lobbies or has any dealings with the Legislature?" Thompson said. "As you know, just about anybody has dealings with the Legislature."

Kessler is also a lawyer. He also was unclear on how it applied to him.

"I'm just concerned that they are creating some undefined standards of conflict (of interest) that they are going to be holding myself and the speaker to that aren't enumerated in the statute or aren't discussed or defined in this opinion," Kessler said. "It's sort of a 'know-it-when-you-see-it' standard."

Both Kessler and Thompson also took particular exception to Morton's comments about future decisions being made on a "case-by-case" basis for lawmakers, depending on their rank.

"It would concern me if there is not a hard and fast rule," Thompson said.

Kessler said Morton's standard was inappropriate.

"You cannot not have a moving set of standards for individuals that are not clearly identified and defined," he said.

The different standards were illustrated somewhat starkly by another opinion the commission issued Thursday. Delegate John Doyle, D-Jefferson, had separately asked the commission whether he could continue serving in the House if he took a job at Shepherd University.

Doyle, who is not running for re-election, said he has a contract to become a consultant for Shepherd starting June 1. He told the commission he would resign his office if it did not approve his job.

Doyle already made efforts to reduce the potential for conflict. Several months ago, he left the House Finance Committee, which controls the budget for universities, to become a member of the judiciary committee.
Doyle is also no longer on some interim committees related to education.

The opinion in the Doyle case said he could take the Shepherd job in part because he had "removed the possibility of an inescapable conflict that may otherwise have arisen" if he remained on those committees.

But Ethics Commission member Terry Walker, a former delegate himself, said Doyle's case would not "pass the smell test" if Doyle were running for re-election.

The opinion itself does not make a distinction based on how much time is left in Doyle's term. But, in light of Walker's comments, Kessler seemed baffled by the Ethics Commission's two decisions handed down on the same day.

Kessler wondered if the opinion in the Thompson case would apply to Thompson if he were to lose re-election.

"I think the ethics law should be applied uniformly across the board to elected officers and public officials and not be watered down or heightened based on particular, unwritten distinctions - it's troubling if they are saying this is the law but we are going to apply it on this case but not this because they have only three months left on their term," Kessler said.

Doyle said he believes his work with Shepherd will be important to the future of the Eastern Panhandle. Doyle will be on contract as "planning officer," but he said the most important part of the job is to determine whether to open an off-campus center in or near Martinsburg and, if so, what would be the best way to go about it.
Shepherd looking at expansion

May 4, 2012

Joey hired as consultant as university investigates a new satellite location

Shepherd University President Suzanne Shipley is in the investigatory stages of opening a satellite location in Martinsburg by the summer of 2013.

At an April 9 spring assembly meeting of university personnel, Shipley suggested educational outreach opportunities, noting that the Shepherdstown campus’ “shrinking capacity,” for an adult and graduate location outside of its current location.

“(Shepherd) host(s) a population of students who are not attracted by or make use of (our) facilities,” reads a document Shipley issued to faculty at the April meeting. “They are working adult students who are largely part-time students and our graduate students in selected programs. Many of these students come to us from nearby towns that are larger than Shepherdstown. … These students are drawn to our academic reputation and quality of instruction, but do not take as much advantage of our student services aimed at the traditional undergraduate student.”

“Martinsburg looks like the ideal place because of Interstate 81,” said Valerie Owens, executive director of University Communications.

Should the university be able to expand in some way, shape or form, to the Martinsburg area, the new location would offer only a few classes for select programs, Shipley said. She added that 300-, 400- and graduate-level courses could be offered at the satellite center.

“It’s about degree completion,” Shipley said.

Also assisting in developing ideas for the potential center is Delegate John Doyle, D-Jefferson. Doyle announced last December that he wouldn’t seek re-election for his seat in what has become the 67th District. His term ends December 2012.

On June 1, Doyle will begin employment with the university as a “planning officer” on the project, according to an advisory opinion issued by the West Virginia Ethics Commission.

Doyle said he sought the opinion by the commission for transfer from the Finance Committee to the Judiciary Committee due to a potential conflict of interest. The ethics commission approved the transfer.

“John is helping us gather information on how other schools have done (satellite locations),” Shipley said.

Doyle said he will look at West Liberty University’s, of Wheeling, Highland Center.

“That is a model that we can use to do something similar to this,” he said.

“John’s been hired to investigate this and other options,” Shipley said.

But, she stressed, the phase is currently “investigatory.”
"The absolute closest we would offer a course or two is summer of 2013," Shipley said.

A business plan will be drafted this summer.

Shipley said so far the business and nursing departments have expressed interest in potentially expanding should a branch location be an option.

Shipley will unveil initial ideas to the Chamber of Commerce of Martinsburg and Berkeley County at its breakfast on May 25.
When is higher ed a good investment?
Affordability is causing students and colleges to think, a good idea

With more young people taking on more debt to go to college, society is taking a closer and closer look at how these investments work out.

It's high time.

As the Daily Mail's Dave Boucher reported, only 55.5 percent of the people who enter college nationally graduate within six years. At public colleges and universities in this state, only 43.8 percent of those who enroll come out six years later with a degree.

The statistics for four-year diplomas are worse.

At Shepherd University, 80 percent of students do not graduate in four years, which is fairly typical for the state's public institutions of higher learning.

Much money is changing hands for very slow gain.

So young people are taking a closer look at which degrees will equip them to make enough to repay student loans. And colleges, competing for students' dollars, are seeking ways to save their customers money.

The state Higher Education Policy Commission encourages schools to streamline academic programs so students can earn degrees with 120 credit hours.

Shepherd made changes last fall. As a result, 62 seniors were able to forgo a semester's cost.

"With students being able to get out in a timely fashion, they won't have to borrow as much money," said Shepherd official Kimberly Scranage.

Kathy Butler, vice chancellor of academic affairs for the commission, noted that students haven't always made wise choices about classes.

"What they did is they took underwater basket weaving," she said. "They'll fill (their schedules) with things that really don't help them get their degree."

That's an expensive waste of time.

Students, schools and taxpayers are reviewing what is valuable and what is not. Market forces are at work, and they can't work fast enough.
Scarborough Library to host grant webinar workshop on May 10

Shepherd University’s Scarborough Library will host a grant webinar on Thursday, May 10 at 1 p.m. designed for nonprofit organizations and individuals seeking grants. The webinar, presented by the Foundation Center, will provide an overview of the research funding process and offer tips on how best to identify funding sources, including electronic and print resources available on the Foundation Center website and at the Scarborough Library.

The event is free and open to the public, but advance registration is required. Contact Christy Tooms, library learning assistant, at christy.tommes@shepherd.edu to register or for additional information.

The Foundation Center is the leading source of information about philanthropy worldwide. It maintains a comprehensive database on U.S. and global grant makers and their grants and operates research, education, and training programs for grant seekers. The Shepherd University Scarborough Library is a Foundation Center Cooperating Collection and is equipped with the resources to help nonprofits and individual grant seekers find funding.

Shepherd professor named 2012 WVMTA commissioned composer

Dr. Mark Andrew Cook, assistant professor of music and director of music theory and composition at Shepherd University, has been named the West Virginia Music Teachers Association (WVMTA) Commissioned Composer for 2012.

Dr. Cook has begun to work on a song cycle for soprano and piano. Wishing to explore relevant subject materials, Dr. Cook sought the advice of Dr. Sylvia Bailey Shurbutt, Shepherd professor of English and Appalachian Heritage Writer in Residence project director. Dr. Shurbutt suggested the Anthology of Appalachian writers as a source, as well as Shepherd faculty members and the Appalachian Heritage Writer in Residence project director.

Dr. Cook graduated from the Peabody Conservatory with a degree in music education and Catholic University with a master’s degree and doctorate in music. He came to Shepherd in 2005. Dr. Cook performs throughout the region and is in demand as a jazz clinician and adjudicator.

He is a guest lecturer in music theory and composition at the Barbara Ingram School of the Arts in Hagerstown, Md., and is currently writing an online textbook titled Foundations of Music Theory to be released in July by Flat World Knowledge Publishing.

Dr. Cook’s Sonata for piano has been performed throughout the region for the College Music Society and the Society for Music Theory. He was named a finalist of the International Music Prize for Excellence in Composition 2011, awarded by the National Academy of Music in Greece for his Changeling Sonata.