Groovy Lifelong Learning

Posted By David On May 6, 2011 @ 4:08 pm In About This Place, From The Paper | No Comments

By Lyn Widmer

The last time I set in a college classroom was 1973.

Some things have changed in the world since then. Using the computer no longer involves typing stacks and stacks of cards and spending the night in the computer lab waiting for output—only to find out the cards did not read properly and somewhere in the pile of 200 cards is a typing error that will take three hours to find and require another overnight at the computer lab.

But I digress.

Shepherd University is launching a program called Lifelong Learning to help retirees, semi-retirees and seniors like me play catch-up. I just filled out a questionnaire about what types of courses should be offered. A preliminary list of topics is included but suggestions are encouraged.

One topic that definitely does not interest me is “Grandparents and Grandchildren.” I am nowhere near this phase of life. I married late in life (my father threatened to have the wedding announcement read “Colonel and Mrs. Francis Coleman are relieved to announce the marriage of their daughter . . .”) and soon joined the ranks of older mothers. I will be in an old folks home before I have grandchildren. At that point I will need to enroll in a course offering “Tips to Remember the Names of Your Grandchildren” or, perhaps, “Tips to Remember You Have Grandchildren.”

I prefer courses that would help me understand the history and politics of places like China, South America, and the Middle East. The focus of most of my college history courses was Europe. When my son traveled from Mexico to Columbia, I was amazed by the history he recounted, particularly the involvement of the United States in local politics. In email after email Nick described what I now refer to as his Failed American Diplomacy Tour of the Americas. I asked one time if he could just send a picture of the beach instead of the place where local farmers were massacred?

I am embarrassed by how little I know about the history of places other than Europe. I can name all the wives of Henry VIII in chronological order, but can’t begin to name key historical figures in the Middle East. The Lifelong Learning program could help me be a better citizen of the world.

Two Lifelong Learning program topics that intrigue me are “Social Networks (Facebook, Blogs, iPhones, etc.)” and “Developing Your Own Website.” Over 17 million seniors are active on the Internet these days, compared to 11.3 million seniors in 2004. I want to make more use of the Internet, but have found it useless to ask younger people for help. They seem to just understand it all intuitively and can’t fathom why anyone would need a tutorial. A course in cyber-topics would be great. I hope the Social Networks course will explain how to lower my monthly phone/internet bill so it is less than the mortgage payment.

I recently read an article that listed indoor activities suitable for seniors. The list included baking, making greeting cards, and learning how to move to “groovy music.” No, thank you. I would much rather take courses at Shepherd University. Learning more about our changing world is my idea of groovy.

For more information about Lifelong Learning at Shepherd University contact Dr. Diane Melby at 304-876-5378 or dmelby@shepherd.edu.
7 area residents on Shepherd dean's list

SHEPHERDSTOWN, W. Va. -- Seven Franklin County residents were named to the dean's list at Shepherd University, Shepherdstown.

Chambersburg residents include James Atkins, Jonathan Thomas Motichka and Seth Eby.

Other county residents are Megan M. Crider, Fannettsburg; Melinda Stenger, Greencastle; Sarah Holland, Mercersburg; and Samantha Phillips, Waynesboro.

They had at least 3.4 grade point averages.
Fifteen Morgan County residents have been named to the Dean’s List at Shepherd University.

Berkeley Springs residents include Jessica Elizabeth Earle, Joseph Andrew Hansoth, Constance Lee Hovermale, Sarah Catherine Hovermale, Sarah Catherine Kerns, Christina Maria Page, Jennifer Susanne Ratcliff, Rachel Elizabeth Shambaugh, Caitlin Clark Michael, Michael Christopher Raach, Katie Lynn Coise, Kevin D. Wurster and Robert Lee Dugan III.

Other Morgan County Residents include Edward Raymond Cope III, Great Cox, and Jennifer Nicole Nicholson, Paw Paw.

To be eligible for the Dean’s List, a student must maintain a 3.4 grade point average for the semester and carry at least 15 hours of course work or be in a professional teaching block.
Three vying for Two Rivers Chamber Orchestra’s baton

By RICHARD F. BELISLE

richardb@herald-mail.com

6:27 PM EDT, July 24, 2011

SHEPHERDSTOWN, W.Va.

When Mark McCoy left as chairman of Shepherd University’s music department earlier this month, he also left the Two Rivers Chamber Orchestra without a conductor.

Friends of Music, the community support group that McCoy helped organize in 2007 when he led the effort to create a local symphony orchestra, is seeking a successor to pick up McCoy’s baton. He announced in April that he was leaving Shepherd to take a position at DePauw University in Indiana.

Finding McCoy’s replacement will be a slow and deliberate process.

The five-member search committee, recruiting on national professional websites, has selected three candidates from among 14 who applied to audition for the job as the orchestra’s next permanent guest conductor.

The finalists are Tara Simoncic, Stephen Czarkowski and Jed Gaylin, according to Joanna Moomaw, operations manager for Two Rivers. Her office is in the university’s Frank Center.

Moomaw said the search committee ranked the candidates after poring over resumes, listening to DVDs of their live performances and hearing their musical suggestions for Two Rivers concerts.

“There were no face-to-face interviews with anyone,” Moomaw said.

It will take the rest of this year and all of 2012 before the position is filled, said Dan Anderson, secretary of Friends of Music.

The orchestra’s concert season features two performances a year, in spring and fall. The finalists will come to Shepherd one at a time to lead the musicians through a concert under the watchful eyes of the search committee members.
Simoncic will conduct this season’s fall concert. Czarkowski will lead the 2012 season’s spring concert and Gaylin will direct the fall 2012 performance.

- According to a Friends of Music release, Simoncic, of Harrisburg, Pa., just finished her ninth season as music director with the Norwalk, Ct., Youth Symphony. She has led the orchestra on international tours.

She has studied trumpet since age 6, has a bachelor’s degree in performance from the New England Conservatory of Music, a master’s in conducting from Northwestern University and further studies in conducting from the Manhattan School of Music.

Simoncic performed at Carnegie Hall and at Tanglewood, and studied overseas with many prestigious conductors, according to her resume.

- Czarkowski, who lives in the Washington, D.C., area, is in demand nationally as a conductor, cellist and educator, the release said.

Moomaw said Czarkowski teaches cello as an adjunct at Shepherd University and is first chair in Two Rivers Chamber Orchestra concerts.

He is assistant conductor of the Opera Camerata of Washington, D.C., performs as its principal cellist and is the orchestra’s personnel manager.

Czarkowski is an active member of the Conductors Guild.

- Gaylin has been the principal conductor of the National Film and Radio Philharmonic in Beijing since 2007, and was the principal guest conductor of the Sibiu State Philharmonic in Romania from 2002-06.

Gaylin’s other credits include conducting the Saint Petersburg State Symphony, Shanghai Conservatory Orchestra, Bucharest Radio Orchestra, as well as orchestras in Spain, Poland, Italy and the United States.

He taught at the Shangahi Conservatory and is a doctor of musical arts in conducting at Peabody Conservatory.

“We were sad to see Mark leave. This orchestra is his brainchild, but we’re excited for the applicants we have, and to see the new musical and conducting styles that they will bring to our audience,” Moomaw said.

McCoy, 47, a 1987 Shepherd graduate, earned a master’s degree at Peabody Conservatory and a Ph.D. at Texas Tech. He returned to Shepherd’s music department in 1995 and became the department chairman a year later.

He said in an interview in April that when he returned to Shepherd, the music department had 40 music majors and 10 members on the faculty. Today it has 140 music majors and 40 full- and part-time faculty members, he said.
Since its founding in 2007, Friends of Music has raised more than $500,000 for the university's music department and the Two Rivers Chamber Orchestra, Moomaw said.
SHEPHERDSTOWN - Shepherd University will sponsor an open meeting for the community to hear a presentation about the pedestrian underpass planned for W.Va. 480 at 7 p.m. Aug. 3 in Reynolds Hall.

Engineering designers for Alpha Associates Inc. will present the project design and anticipated timeline. University personnel will be available to answer questions about the project.

The pedestrian underpass is slated to be constructed at the intersection of W.Va. 480 and West Campus Drive. A 2010 federal appropriation through the efforts of Rep. Shelley Moore Capito will provide $400,000 toward the project, approximately 10 percent of the expected total cost.
Three are in the running to replace Mark McCoy as conductor of the Two Rivers Chamber Orchestra, the Eastern Panhandle-based group he helped organize in 2007.

By RICHARD F. BELISLE
richardb@heraldmail.com

SHEPHERDSTOWN, W.Va. — When Mark McCoy left as chairman of Shepherd University’s music department earlier this month, he also left the Two Rivers Chamber Orchestra without a conductor.

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Moormaw said the search committee ranked the candidates after poring over resumes, listening to DVDs of their live performances and hearing their musical suggestions for Two Rivers concerts.

“None of us want to face interviews with anyone,” Moormaw said.

It will take the rest of this year and all of 2012 before the position is filled, said Dan Anderson, secretary of Friends of Music.

The orchestra’s concert season features two performances a year, in spring and fall. The finalists will come to Shepherd one at a time to lead the musicians through a concert under the watchful eyes of the search committee members.

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See PLAY, B3
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McCoy, 47, a 1987 Shepherd graduate, earned a master's degree at Peabody Conservatory and a Ph.D. at Texas Tech. He returned to Shepherd’s music department in 1995 and became the department chairman a year later.

He said in an interview in April that when he returned to Shepherd, the music department had 40 music majors and 10 members on the faculty. Today it has 140 music majors and 40 full- and part-time faculty members, he said.

Since its founding in 2007, Friends of Music has raised more than $500,000 for the university’s music department and the Two Rivers Chamber Orchestra, Moomaw said.
Berkeley County residents named to dean's list at Shepherd University

9:48 PM EDT, July 25, 2011

SHEPHERDSTOWN, W.Va.

One hundred-seventy-four Berkeley County, W.Va., residents have been named to the dean’s list at Shepherd University.


Falling Waters, W.Va., residents include Laruen Michele Henry, Hannah Ellyse Billian, Stephanie Nicole Stranksky, Joseph Wayne Stevenson, Joseph Douglas Schildt, Lindsay Elaine Kline, Carol Lynn Hutzler,
Lindsey Renae Hilditch, Michell Joy Henderson, Lindsay Raye Hadley, Justin Scott Everhart, Alicia Marie Doepp, Melissa Lynn Christian, Chance Daniel Bucy, and Jason Robert Bruchey.

Bunker Hill, W.Va., residents include Stephanie Nicole Brooks, Prose Lysandra Cassells, Christina Marie Chitester, Keenan DeWayne DeLawder, Molli Leiane Fitzwater, Kelly Marie Huff, Gavin Matthew Huntsberry, Jennifer Louise Jones, Jessica Marie Pearson, Mary Beth Schuweiler, Samantha Jo Shirley, Caroline Laughlin Orr, Ashley Dawn Loudan, and Catherine Louise Pevahouse.


Inwood, W.Va., residents include Keisha Lee Brooks, David Anthony Cheif, Matthew Randell Cheif, Bethany Joann Combs, Shelley Dawn Heironimus, Amy Nicole Mason, Rebecca Lynn Mathias, Clayton Harold McBride, Brittany R. Michael, Brandy Rochelle Orsini, Lindsay Gail Pittington, Michelle Breanna Roesch, Kaycee Mae Saxe, Sara Elizabeth Siblee, Chad Tyler Vanorsdale, Stephanie Anne Wood, Marilyn Renae Greenfield, Amelia Catherine Carte, Hollic Lynn Wiegand, Jamie Elizabeth Jordan, Emily Daisy Bayer, and Raven Nicole Blye.

Other Berkeley County residents include Rebecca Ruth Sperry and Janelle Hess, Gerrardstown, W.Va.; Harwood Blake Dunham and Sahrina Lynn Morris, Glengary, W.Va.
Shepherdstown businesses applaud annual theater festival

By RICHARD F. BELISLE

richardb@herald-mail.com

11:09 PM EDT, July 26, 2011

SHEPHERDSTOWN, W.Va.

Jim Ford, owner of the Thomas Shepherd Inn, said the Contemporary American Theater Festival makes July "everybody's biggest month. It's hard not to be."

The five-play, monthlong festival at Shepherd University creates a summer boomtown for owners of local hotels, restaurants and downtown shops. The festival concludes Sunday.

"We hardly ever leave the house in July," said Smith, who owns the inn with his wife, Jeanne Muir. "We're booked a year in advance for Wednesday through Saturday."

"The Thomas Shepherd Inn, Bavarian and the Clarion are all booked for July," said Peggy McKowen, the theater festival's associate producer/director said of the town's three main lodging facilities.

"This is a record box office year," said James McNeel, director of development, marketing and finance. Ticket sales account for about $430,000 this year, 35 percent higher than 2010, he said.

More than 6,000 patrons bought more than 12,000 tickets, either to see a single play or multiple productions through subscriptions.

It costs about $1.1 million to put on the festival every year. Half comes from ticket sales, the rest from donations, said McKowen, one of the festival's three full-time employees.

The staff increases to about 90 temporary employees — including 14 professional equity actors, playwrights, stage and costume designers, directors and technicians, McKowen said.

The big money, though, is in the $2 million that patrons spend in and around Shepherdstown on lodging, meals and shopping, McNeel said. Some of it spills over into bed-and-breakfast inns in nearby Sharpsburg.

"They're all booked, too," Smith said.
July is the busiest month at the Shepherdstown Visitors Center. Three times as many people walk in, Executive Director Cheryl Keyrouze said. So far this month, more than 1,270 have come in seeking information, according to center records.

"The theater festival has a tremendously positive effect on our business," said Meredith Wait, who along with Debbie Dickinson own Dickinson & Wait Craft Gallery at 123 E. German St.

"We pay attention when we order for July," Wait said. "Contemporary theater and contemporary crafts go together."

"The short answer is that there is a noticeable increase in business in July especially on weekends," said Michael Raubertas, who with his wife, Ruth Raubertas, owns Four seasons Books at 116 W. German St. Like Wait, Michael Raubertas said business at the store in July is now second only to the Christmas season.

"July used to be slow, but not anymore," he said.

Bistro 112 at 112 W. German St., formerly the Stone Soup restaurant, also sees a big increase in business in July, owner Deborah Tucker said.

"There's a huge amount of activity in July," Tucker said. "We have to prepare for it. We add more wait staff and buy more linen."

The restaurant offers fewer specials in July because of the "time sensitivity of theater-goers who have to get in and out (to get to plays on time)" she said.

A popular July entree is the bistro meal, a fixed-price, three-course dinner, she said.

Ashley Hoffman works the counter at the Shepherdstown Sweet Shop Bakery at 100 W. German St.

"The theater festival brings in a lot of people from the Washington metropolitan area, especially on weekends," she said. "Some come in to have a sandwich between plays. They also seem to like cupcakes and doughnuts. Sometimes they pick up a cookie to bring back to their hotel."
Frederick County students learn engineering concepts through Johns Hopkins program
by Margarita Raycheva
Staff Writer

The students in Johns Hopkins’ Engineering Innovation program take their spaghetti raw, covered with glue and served with a generous helping of physics and math.

Using this recipe at Tuscarora High School on Monday, they planned and designed feather-weight spaghetti bridges, strong enough to hold up to 60 times their weight.

The trick is to construct the bridge in a way that allows the weight to be distributed across the whole construction, said Kira Bruder, 17, of Urbana High School and her teammates Mattie Kobus, 17, of Meade High in Anne Arundel County, and Jay Zhang, 18, from St. John’s Catholic Prep.

As they developed their spaghetti bridge design, the three rising seniors filled their architectural plans with calculations of weights, angles or distribution and the forces that would affect their intricate noodle creation. When they took all that into consideration, they could figure out mathematically how much weight their bridge could carry without snapping.

“Our goal is 40 kilograms,” Kira said.

While that is about 88 pounds, the entire bridge only weighs 200 grams or just about 7 ounces.

The team will be able to test their bridge at a special competition on Friday.

The spaghetti bridge competition is the culmination of the Johns Hopkins University’s Engineering Innovation summer program — an intense four-week course, which allows high-schoolers to get a taste of all aspects of engineering.

The program, which is open to students from all parts of the state, has been taking place in the past month at Tuscarora High School.

Based on an undergraduate introductory engineering course at Johns Hopkins University, Engineering Innovation condenses a semester-long, college-level course in engineering into four weeks of study. Students attend lectures, take lab classes, test theories and ultimately learn to think like engineers, said Reza Mirmamadi, one of the instructors for the program.

“We teach them techniques to motivate them to do something in engineering,” said Mirmamadi, the head of Shepherd University’s Department of Computer Science, Mathematics and Engineering.

“We touch on almost all aspects of engineering,” he said.

Engineering Innovation covers everything from structural engineering, environmental engineering, robotics, chemical engineering and electronics.

If they complete the program with an A or B, students can earn three transferable college credits.

To qualify, Frederick County students have to show they have taken Algebra 2 and Lab Science.

This is the third year that Engineering Innovation is available to Frederick County students.

Because of huge interest, the program has been expanded to two classes and serves 36 students, compared to 24 students last year, said Karen Bergsmiller, a Hood College professor, who coordinates the program.

“We have kids travelling from as far as Anne Arundel County,” she said.

Because the program has two sections of students this year, instructors have a different format for some of their activities and are hoping to make them more competitive. In the bridge competition on Friday for example, students from the two classes will compete against one another.

Together with the hands-on, engaging projects in the course that helps to excite students and teach them to problem solve, said Paul Hoyt, a technology education teacher at Tuscarora High School.

“We want them to think outside the box,” he said.

Only in the past month, students distilled alcohol and constructed an electric car, which could move following the light from a flashlight. Students are also preparing presentations on different inventions, that could solve various real life problems. Some are researching a device that could help fatigued drivers. Others are studying how to predict and announce avalanches.

Because of that, the program does not feel like intense classwork, said Kira Bruder, the rising senior at Urbana High School.

“It’s not like a high-stress class,” she said.

Many of the aspiring engineers in the program hope it will help them decide what field of engineering they should pursue.

Ian Tolino, 18, who just graduated from Middletown High School, was one of these students and said he was still torn between mechanical and civil engineering.
Tolino will attend the University of Maryland at College Park this fall and he hopes to finish the program earning three college credits. For him that was the Engineering Innovation's best feature.

"You just have to see how that compares to the cost of a college class," he said.

The program has been made possible thanks to a collaboration between Johns Hopkins, Frederick County schools, the Frederick County Workforce Development Board and other local businesses which helped reduce the cost for students and provided scholarships for those who cannot afford to pay.

Generally, the program costs $2,000. But thanks to sponsors like Bechtel, Cisco, My Bank! First National Bank and Trust, Voco Financial Advisors and Fort Detrick Alliance, students pay $600, Hoyt said.

"Money should not be an issue in this," Tolino said.

At this stage it is early to determine if the program will open additional seats for students next year. But Hoyt and Borgsmiller said they would be happy to continue offering two summer classes for Frederick County students.

"If we can consistently fill two sections, that will be great," Borgsmiller said. "That will be our goal."

mraycheva@gazette.net
Contemporary American Theater Festival

Lectures, discussions, stage readings, music and art exhibitions, plus plays. Continues through Sunday, July 31. Shepherd University, Shepherdstown, W.Va. Single tickets for the 2011 repertory are $52. For a schedule, call 800-999-2283 or go to www.catf.org.
Pedestrian underpass

A presentation about the pedestrian underpass planned for Route 480 in the area the highway intersects with the entrance to the university west campus will be offered at an open meeting, sponsored by Shepherd University, August 3, 7 p.m., in Reynolds Hall on North King Street. Engineering Designers for Alpha Associates, Inc., will present the project design and anticipated timeline. Personnel from the school will attend to answer questions about the project. A 2010 federal appropriation will provide $400,000, approximately ten percent of the expected cost.
Dr. Scott Beard, Shepherd University professor of music, with coauthor Dr. Lucy Mauro, assistant professor at West Virginia University, have released their fourth anthology of keyboard ensemble music, “Essential Keyboard Duets, Vol 5: 12 Transcriptions for Late Intermediate to Early Advanced Pianist,” published by Alfred Publishing Company.

Included are well-known works by Grieg and Saint Saens as well as works by Debussy, Brahms, and Rimsky Korsikov. The book culminates with Korsikov’s transcription of “The Neapolitan Song – Funiculi Funicella.”

“I am thrilled that Alfred Publishing has continued their commitment to making this important body of literature available to today’s students,” Beard said.

The anthologies are used in the piano ensemble courses at Shepherd and are available for sale to students.
Shepherd University announces collaboration with Montgomery College

July 28, 2011

Shepherd University and Montgomery College (MC) have signed a collaborative agreement, the Transfer Opportunity Program at Shepherd, providing financial and advising benefits and paving the way for a smoother transfer from MC to Shepherd.

Under the T.O.P.S. agreement, MC students can receive academic advising to assist them in choosing appropriate courses for transfer, and students who meet specific GPA and credit requirements are eligible for a discounted tuition rate when enrolling at Shepherd.

"We are pleased to offer this opportunity to the students of Montgomery College," said Suzanne Shipley, president of Shepherd University. "This program provides a clear pathway for transfer students on their journey to Shepherd, with support every step of the way, from advising to finances to housing."

Both presidents are committed to creating a seamless pathway of programs and services for students. Together, the partnership can foster even greater degree completion for Montgomery College students.

"Our exciting new partnership with Shepherd will minimize the financial challenges that students face upon transferring to a four-year university," said DeRonne Pollard, president of Montgomery College. "Students will also benefit from advising that will ensure they successfully complete their degrees and contribute to a stronger, more competitive workforce of tomorrow."

Shepherd's academic advisers will also meet periodically with students in the program to review their MC course selections to ensure maximum transfer of credits. Advisers will also work with students to prepare them for a timely completion of bachelor's degree requirements once the students enroll at Shepherd.

In addition, transfer students have the opportunity to live on campus, study abroad, and participate in athletic and leadership programs. All transfer students are guaranteed housing if they applied before July 1.

Outside of Maryland, Montgomery College students select West Virginia as one of their top three states for transfer. Leaders from both institutions see this agreement as a way of increasing that trend as they welcome even more diverse students to Shepherd University.

Graduates from MC who meet the program's requirements will be eligible for the discounted tuition starting with fall 2011. President Shipley and Dr. DeRonne Pollard, president of Montgomery College, will participate in a signing ceremony for the T.O.P.S. agreement this fall.

For more information, contact Kelly Pannill, associate director of admissions at Shepherd University, kpanill@shepherd.edu, 304-876-5199, or Debra A. Bright, director of articulation, transfer and academic services at Montgomery College, debra.bright@montgomerycollege.edu, 240-567-5006.
Area students graduate from Shepherd University

July 28, 2011
The Inter-Mountain

Six hundred fifty-six students received degrees during Shepherd University's 138th Commencement on May 14.

Jim Lehrer, executive editor and anchor of the PBS NewsHour, delivered the commencement address. Lehrer was also awarded an honorary doctorate.

Among those receiving degrees are Patrick Marshall Spears of Ekin, Sarah Beth Crenkkenberger and Sam D. Nelson of Philippi, Seth O'Neal Stainaker of Belington, Lindsey Beth All and Allison Renee Mongold of Moorefield, Daniel Ward Silverman of Baker, Richard Bernard Reddick of Old Fields and Jacob David Hackett of Wardensville.
Meeting set Aug. 3 about underpass

July 28, 2011

SHEPHERDSTOWN - Shepherd University will sponsor an open meeting for the community to hear a presentation about the pedestrian underpass planned for W.Va. 480 at 7 p.m. Aug. 3 in Reynolds Hall.

Engineering designers for Alpha Associates Inc. will present the project design and anticipated timeline. University personnel will be available to answer questions about the project.

The pedestrian underpass is slated to be constructed at the intersection of W.Va. 480 and West Campus Drive. A 2016 federal appropriation through the efforts of U.S. Rep. Shelley Moore Capito will provide $400,000 toward the project, approximately 10 percent of the expected total cost.
Local student receives college scholarship

July 28, 2011
journal-news.net

FALLING WATERS - Jordan Sorenson, of Falling Waters, is a recipient of a $1,500 college scholarship awarded at Fort Detrick.

Fort Detrick is one of over 250 commissaries operated worldwide by the Defense Commissary Agency. Sorenson's parents are Myra and Eric Sorenson.

He is enrolled at Shepherd University. Jordan's school and community activities include track and field, the captain of his football team, an Eagle Scout in the Boy Scouts of America; and a member of his church youth group.
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Zimmer tapped for Shepherd MBA program

Area entrepreneur and Shepherd University professor Chip Zimmer has been selected to lead Shepherd's Master of Business Administration program.

Zimmer, the owner at Zimmer Marketing Group and Senior Compass Resource Guide in Hagerstown, Md., joined the Shepherd faculty in 2010 and teaches business and marketing classes.

Prior to forming ZMG in 1998, Zimmer served as the vice president of RehabSolutions in Cumberland, Md.; vice president of City Hospital in Martinsburg; senior vice president of DelWilber Associates in Mclean, Va.; and director of athletics for George Washington University. He received his bachelor of science and master of science degrees from West Virginia University and his Ph.D. from the University of Maryland.

Shepherd’s MBA program began in 2005 with 43 students and grown since then to 112 graduates, averaging 92 students during any given semester.

The program boasts 17 faculty members, 15 of whom have doctorate degrees and offer students a low 1:3:1 student to faculty ratio.

The program is in the accreditation process with the International Assembly for College Business Education and will be the first MBA program in the region to achieve this accreditation.

Students may earn a general MBA degree or one with an emphasis in health care administration or accounting. These emphasis programs enable students to further specialize in their particular field of expertise.

On July 1, Russ Porter assumed the role of the program coordinator of the Health Care MBA. He has a Ph.D. in health care service organizations from the Medical College of Virginia (VCU) and an Ed.D. in higher education administration from the University of North Texas. He also has a nursing home administrator's license. Roger Hamood, program coordinator of the Accounting MBA, has an MBA from Marshall and is a licensed CPA. Both have been on the graduate faculty at Shepherd since 2008.

For additional information about Shepherds MBA or other graduate programs, call 304-876-5313 or go online to www.shepherd.edu/graduate-studies.
West Virginia progresses further

The Doyle Report

Delegate John Doyle

POSTED: July 29, 2011

Last week we talked about statistics that demonstrate West Virginia is one of the fiscally soundest states in the Union, and getting even sounder.

There are other areas in which our state has made major progress. We'll talk about two of them this week. Some naysayers like to portray our state as being last or close to it in almost every statistic except the ones in which it's good to be last. That's changing.

In the 1970s West Virginia's per capita income was at approximately the national average. By the 1990s it had dropped to 49th and remained there or many years. Our state was in the heart of the "rust belt." Many of our people lost jobs in mining or manufacturing in their 50s. They could not find jobs for which they were qualified and decided it was too late in life to move elsewhere and start anew.

We became the oldest state in the union (in terms of the average age of our people). Retirees may or may not have wealth, but they definitely lack "income." So by that measurement we have lagged.

But we've now turned the corner. Statistics recently released by the Bureau of Economic Analysis and the Bureau of the Census (both agencies in the U.S. Department of Commerce) show that in 2010 West Virginia moved ahead of Utah and Idaho to 47th place in per capita income.

That's certainly not good enough, but it's not the whole story. West Virginia's growth in per capita income was the ninth fastest of the 50 states. We're on an upward track that looks to continue for awhile.

Passing Idaho has major policy significance. Idaho 25 years ago passed a so-called "right-to-work" law. If memory serves it is the most recent state to do so. About half of the 50 states have such laws.

Many conservatives argue that passage of a right-to-work law by a state that does not have one will result in a better economy. In our area they point to Virginia, which has such a law. But the results in Idaho should give everyone caution.

I have argued for many years that right-to-work is an irrelevancy. While Virginia does rank high (7th) among the states in per capita income, five of the top six (including neighboring Maryland at No. 4) are non right-to-work states.

Not only is right-to-work irrelevant, the term itself is a misnomer. A right-to-work law limits the options available to both labor and management to work out their differences.

In a non-right-to-work state like West Virginia there are three options available for labor-management relations. They are the "union shop," the "open shop" and what I call "no shop." Under the first an employee must join the recognized bargaining union within a few months of being hired. Under the second an employee may chose
to join or not join the union recognized to bargain for the employees. Under the third employees are not permitted to even have a union. A right-to-work law merely eliminates the first option.

I've talked to many managers of large operations who tell me they prefer dealing with a union than having to guess what rules will make for the most productive workforce. In the recent labor relations drama of the National Football League a major complaint of the team owners was that the players decertified their union as their bargaining agent.

Another area of recent progress is dental care. For years we in the mountain state have had to endure endless jokes about the collective condition of our teeth.

But a new 50-state report card by the Pew Foundation's Children's Dental Campaign shows that West Virginia is one of the most improved states in the union. Our state raised its grade from an "F" to a "C," becoming one of only six states to improve by at least two grade levels.

One of the reasons for our improved ranking is that on July 1 our state began reimbursing physicians who perform preventive dental services to children enrolled in the Children's Health Insurance Program. Infants and toddlers are much more likely to see a pediatrician than a dentist.

As with per capita income we're obviously not yet where we need to be. But we've finally begun moving in the right direction.