Scarborough Library creates poster series featuring award-winning faculty and their favorite books

Dr. Carol Plautz
2011 Shepherd University Outstanding Teacher

Dr. Ed Snyder
2010 West Virginia Professor of the Year

Dr. Sylvia Bailey Shurbutt
2006 West Virginia Professor of the Year
Clockwise, from top: Undergraduates were awarded 694 bachelor’s degrees and grad students earned 55 master’s degrees during Shepherd’s 140th Commencement held in the Butcher Center on May 4.

Benjamin Davis Hackett led the Pledge of Allegiance at the opening of the commencement ceremony.

In a nod to the tools of their trade, graphic design students decorated their mortarboards with Pantone color chips, used to specify ink formulas for printing companies.

Alumni Bill ’58 and Jo Ann Jackson ’58 Knode, shown with President Suzanne Shipley (l.), were recipients of the President’s Award in recognition of their contributions to their alma mater and to the community.

David K. Hendrickson, chair of the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission, donned a Shepherd cap during his address to graduates.
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Front Cover: Carolyn Wilkie
Award-winning faculty members are featured on READ posters produced by the Scarborough Library

Back Cover: Carolyn Wilkie
The ribbon-cutting ceremony in April marked the opening of the Center for Contemporary Arts II.

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CLASS NOTES may be e-mailed to alumni@shepherd.edu. The deadline for the spring 2014 issue is November 15. Photos are welcomed; digital images must be 300 dpi.

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From the President

A walkable campus: Shepherd’s new master plan

In June the Shepherd University Board of Governors approved a new 10-year master plan for Shepherd University developed by Robert A. M. Stern, an architectural firm. The new master plan envisions trails winding through campus and small eating and/or relaxing areas scattered along those trails. It calls for smaller dormitories than the ones Shepherd has now and a new campus quadrangle between the Frank Center and the Center for Contemporary Arts. King Street north of High Street will become a pedestrian mall, and a welcome center, looking very much like the Shepherdstown Town Library, will sit at its High Street terminus. The university welcome center and the town library building will “bookend” the block of King Street containing town hall, presenting a visible link between town and gown.

The Stern plan envisions a campus that encourages walking, and therefore is much more inviting than the one Shepherd has now. By structuring our campus to encourage walking, we build a foundation for the rest of the plan’s purpose—to ease traffic and parking problems. It does this in a way that moves far too slowly for most of us, but seeks to be affordable.

The proposed master plan puts a priority on first taking steps that will enhance Shepherd’s revenues in order to later pay for new improvements. The plan also systematically adds parking spaces from its earliest stages and culminates in the addition of a parking garage that Stern recommends be targeted toward the end of the 10-year plan. The rationale for this timeline is clear: a parking garage will cost about $12 million today for only 400 or so spots, so this is a big investment for a return that will serve about one tenth of our student enrollment.

As many of us know, the university and community leaders have worked tirelessly to identify funding for a parking garage for many years. Currently, the major drawback is that Shepherd doesn’t have the resources to build it. Stern’s recommendation was made with the understanding that the university has had great difficulty getting any increase in revenue from the state of West Virginia in recent years. When money is found for a garage we plan to build it along with an adjacent student center. The student center can be paid with student fees, while the garage is what is called an auxiliary and has to stand on its own funding like a residence hall or bookstore. The reason for building both a student center and a parking garage at the same time is to minimize the disruption that comes from construction—disruption to student learning and to community comfort. We prefer to only disturb an area once with construction, which is why recently the pedestrian underpass was built at the same time as Phase II of the Center for Contemporary Arts.

Should a significant boost in funding occur for any of the projects included in the plan, the schedule can be altered. We presume that, as an entity reliant on state support, help will have to come from the state, but other sources such as gifts and bonds are part of our funding plan for this master plan. If funding materializes, the parking garage can be built sooner than the plan envisions. The folks at Stern who have worked closely with Shepherd pointed this out at several public meetings held on the plan for the community.

Meanwhile, there are other steps the university will be taking to ease parking shortages and traffic congestion. The proposed plan calls for relocation of our maintenance building. This will free up as many as 40 spaces near Princess Street. Sara Cree Hall is scheduled for demolition to create the parking garage targeted for that location. We have considered demolishing that building early to make way for temporary parking of about a hundred spaces. If those new spaces could replace some of the current student parking beside White Hall, some spaces at the corner of Princess and High streets could be reserved for customers of downtown shops.

Because Shepherd opened the new center in Martinsburg in June, this could result in fewer commuters for evening and graduate courses. While the goal of this center is to reach people who, because of scheduling difficulties, are not currently students, its opening provides classroom space to supplement the Shepherdstown campus.

A master plan is a guideline, not a prescription. Shepherd hasn’t followed the present plan verbatim and probably won’t follow this one verbatim either. In fact, the Stern proposal includes plenty of flexibility so that the university can easily adapt to changing situations during the life of the plan.

I’ve had people who examined the plan tell me that if they were high school seniors looking for a place to go to college, they would love the idea of attending school on such a cool campus. It’s a campus plan that encourages students, faculty, and staff alike to walk easily from end to end and enjoy the hike.

To learn more about Shepherd’s master plan, visit www.shepherd.edu and click on “10-Year Facilities Master Plan” under Announcements.
Shepherd University announced the creation of the Paul and Lisa Welch Distinguished Awards Program at a reception honoring its namesakes in McMurran Hall on April 22.

The program will foster and mentor students, faculty, and staff applying for national and international awards and scholarships, such as Fulbright, Rhodes, MacArthur, and Gates, said Dr. Timothy Nixon, associate professor of English and director of the awards program.

“The Welches believe in the vision of Shepherd University being a prestigious institution of higher learning, and commitment to that vision is born out by their generosity,” he said.

Paul and Lisa Welch are residents of Shepherdstown who expressed an interest in academic excellence initiatives at Shepherd and provided initial funding for the program, Dr. Nixon said.

Members of the program committee plan to identify students from the incoming freshman class as possible awards applicants and mentor them throughout their time at Shepherd to build a “dossier of accomplishments that really would make them strong candidates for these kinds of awards,” Dr. Hendrickson-Lambert said.

“The generous support of Paul and Lisa Welch will enable Shepherd to prepare our talented students to compete for prestigious fellowships and awards,” said President Suzanne Shipley. “I applaud the Welches and their thoughtful financial support, which will help our students reach their full potential.”

**Professor teaches in South Africa**

Dr. Sher Hendrickson-Lambert, assistant professor of biology, traveled to South Africa in May to teach statistical concepts for genomics to international students.

She joined fellow scientists specializing in genetics to share the latest methods, interpretation, and applications of molecular genetic analysis for conservation of endangered species.

“It’s an exciting time for conservation biologists because we’re now able to use new techniques in genomics. Several endangered species’ genomes are being sequenced, so we have new ways to understand the relationship between genetics, the environment, and species biology which will hopefully lead to better species management strategies,” Dr. Hendrickson-Lambert said.

The course, Recent Advances in Conservation Genetics, was sponsored by the American Genetic Association and the University of Pretoria and took place at the Southern African Wildlife College, which is within Greater Kruger National Park in northeastern South Africa. It was designed for professionals already in the field who might not have access to the most recent laboratory and computational methods, Hendrickson-Lambert said.

Dr. Colleen Nolan, dean of the School of Natural Sciences and Mathematics at Shepherd, said Shepherd is fortunate to have Dr. Hendrickson-Lambert as a member of the biology faculty. “Dr. Hendrickson-Lambert’s invitation to serve as a faculty member teaching statistical concepts to international students is a recognition of not just her abilities but her desire to help the next generation of students. She has a number of international collaborations, and her research on genetics of endangered species as well as the genetics of human diseases will provide Shepherd University students with unique opportunities to complete research that takes advantage of modern techniques,” Dr. Nolan said.

**COPLAC holds annual meeting on campus**

Shepherd University hosted the annual meeting of the Council of Public Liberal Arts Colleges (COPLAC) in June. The meeting’s theme, Creative and Performing Arts at Public Liberal Arts Colleges and Universities, allowed Shepherd to showcase the Contemporary American Theater Festival and the university’s vibrant arts environment. COPLAC, established in 1987, drives awareness of the value of high-quality, public liberal arts education in a student-centered, residential environment. Its 27 members represent 25 states and one Canadian province.
Wildlife management students help scientists tag black bears

Twelve students in a wildlife management class traveled to a site near Elkins after a snowfall to track and monitor black bears with a team of state biologists in January.

The trip was an effort to introduce the students to professional life in wildlife management and to show them research conducted in the field. The West Virginia Division of Natural Resources (WVDNR) staff radio tags and follows the bears to study their hibernation, health, and growth and survival rates.

The students had the rare opportunity to help professional wildlife biologists with their study. The group tracked via radio collar a 130-pound sow and her three yearling cubs to a den. During the roughly four hours on location, students performed different tasks, including measuring the bears’ snouts, tails, claws, and weight, and tattooing and ear-tagging them.

“The students helped carry the cubs from the den and helped weigh the bear cubs as part of the health assessment,” said Dr. Peter Vila, assistant professor of environmental studies, who arranged the outing for his class. “It’s a real treat for the students to not only see the bear study, but to actively participate.”

Cody Marsh, a junior from Harpers Ferry majoring in environmental studies with a concentration in resource management, said the best part was holding a 20-pound bear cub in his arms.

“It was very much a once-in-a-lifetime experience,” he said. “However, it wasn’t all cuddly and fun; we were there to do a job that had long-term benefits for the bears.” He said the students learned about the equipment and methods used to study bear populations, as well as biology and black bear characteristics.

“We learned how to take all the measurements necessary to gauge the growth and health of a black bear,” he said.

Marsh said the hands-on labs like the bear track made this wildlife management class one of his favorites at Shepherd.

“For me, these learning experiences are invaluable and provide me with the inspiration to continue into the field I’m currently studying,” he said.

Dr. Vila said that emphasizing the experience you get as a professional in the field is where Shepherd makes an impact.

“This type of exposure helps students decide on future post-graduate careers and also provides valuable hands-on experience,” he said.

The trip came together quickly, as it was dependent upon snow, personnel, and the bears. The plan was to find the bears hibernating in their den and tranquilize them so the biologists can conduct their work. Should an untagged cub take off before the drug is administered or takes effect, the biologists can track its footprints in the snow.

Dr. Vila said safety for both the humans and the bears was paramount, with only the certified staff preparing and administering the proper tranquilizer dosages. Students were taught proper bear handling. He also stressed that though the bears appear cute and cuddly, they are extraordinarily dangerous animals.

Wildlife management students are shown above with tranquilized bears being studied by the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources at a site near Elkins.

Resources (WVDNR) staff tags and follows the bears to study their hibernation, health, and growth and survival rates.

Bear makes surprise visit to campus

Shepherd had a surprise visit from a young black bear in May, prompting the university to send a RAVE text alert advising students and employees to use caution.

His visit was captured in the photo below taken by Beth Cole, who works in the Admissions Office, as the bear dashed by Stutzman-Slonaker Hall, heading up High Street and out of town.

Posted on Shepherd’s Facebook page, the photo went viral with more than 58,000 views, 900 shares, and 450 likes, making it the most popular post ever on Shepherd’s Facebook page www.facebook.com/ShepherdUniversity.
Grandmother, 72, earns R.B.A. degree in May

Among the 500 dark blue caps in the Butcher Center on Saturday, May 4 was one decorated with a “72” made of rhinestones. Patricia Wilburn’s granddaughter crafted the mortarboard with her grandmother’s age for her walk to receive a Regents bachelor of arts degree at Shepherd University’s 140th commencement.

Wilburn, an Inwood resident, graduated high school more than 50 years ago, but said she always wanted a college degree.

“I think you should pursue your dream, whatever it is—just go with your heart,” Wilburn said. “I don’t think you can learn too much. A life is a learning experience, and it never ends.”

She married after high school, raised a family, and worked as a secretary. She took her first college class in 1986 when her 10 children were mostly grown, but her second husband’s career as a Marine relocated them, and she would have to find another school in which to enroll.

After her husband Jack died in 2006, Wilburn sold their house in Virginia and moved to West Virginia where two of her children lived. She started taking classes at Mountain State University in 2008 but came to Shepherd for her last two semesters after Mountain State closed.

Wilburn said she loved Shepherd and found the professors passionate and enthusiastic and the students engaged and often debated with them in her political science class.

“I think Dr. Stern wanted to throw me out at times, but I liked him. He was fun. We had some riotous debates,” she said.

Dr. Mark Stern, university professor emeritus of political science, said Wilburn is a bright and delightful person who was always a pleasure with whom to speak. “She was always interested in what was being discussed and brought her experience and knowledge into discussions,” he said.

Wilburn said she was worried she would not fit in, but soon found herself in necessary study groups, not only to learn the coursework but for peer support as well. She hosted the group at her house and made chicken and dumplings and cookies, or they met in the library’s study rooms and had sandwiches.

Also helpful, Wilburn said, was her advisor, Nancy Snyder ’90, coordinator of Regents Bachelor of Arts at Shepherd. “Nan knew what she was doing,” she said.

Snyder said Wilburn was driven and determined to get her degree. “She had accomplished a lot in her life and this was the missing piece. I’m so glad I could help her accomplish her goal,” Snyder said.

Wilburn said she plans to spend time with her children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren, to garden, to return to her volunteer work at the Martinsburg VA Medical Center and as an advocate for Shenandoah’s Women’s Center, and to become certified to substitute teach. And to keep in touch with some of her classmates.

“I learned so much here, and I’m going to miss those kids,” she said. ♦ Carolyn Wilkie

Huber named admissions director

Matthew Huber joined the Shepherd staff in June as director of admissions.

Huber is responsible for achieving annual and long-range enrollment goals and assisting in the development of admissions marketing and communications strategies. As director, he will develop a comprehensive student recruitment plan for Shepherd.

Huber had been associate director of freshman admissions at Upper Iowa University in Fayette. Previously, he served as assistant director of admissions at Doane College in Crete, Nebraska. A graduate of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln with an M.A. in educational administration (higher education administration emphasis), Huber received a bachelor of music education degree from the University of Missouri-St. Louis. ♦

R.B.A. offered at Martinsburg Center and Shepherdstown campus

The Regents bachelor of arts degree provides a flexible way for adults to earn their bachelor of arts degree by combining the traditional classroom experience with credit for work experience through a portfolio review.

Students interested in the R.B.A. program can enroll in the program at Shepherd’s Shepherdstown campus or at the new Martinsburg Center at 261 Aikens Center, just off Edwin Miller Boulevard.

For more information, contact Nan Snyder at 304-876-5275, nsnyder@shepherd.edu, or Beth Thomas at the Martinsburg Center at 304-263-3303, bthomas@shepherd.edu.
Frank X Walker to be Appalachian Writer-in-Residence

Author Frank X Walker will be the Appalachian Writer-in-Residence at Shepherd this fall. The director of the African American and Africana Studies Program at the University of Kentucky, Walker is the editor of PLUCK! the Journal of Affrilachian Arts & Culture and Kentucky’s poet laureate. His books include When Winter Come, Black Box, Buffalo Dance: the Journey of York, Affrilachia, and Isaac Murphy.

Walker will serve throughout 2013 as Shepherd University’s Appalachian Heritage Writer-in-Residence and be on campus September 23-27 to receive the Appalachian Heritage Writer’s Award, funded by the West Virginia Humanities Council and the West Virginia Center for the Book. Walker’s Affrilachia will be the 2013 One West Virginia, One Community Read, selected by the West Virginia Library Council. Walker will be the focus of the 2013 Anthology of Appalachian Writers, Frank X Walker Volume VI, published in 2014.

Walker coined the term “Affrilachia” in 1991, in an effort to make Appalachian literary studies more inclusive—understanding, as do we all, that seizing the language (and telling one’s own story) is the first step in wresting one’s identity and true independence.

Walker was born in 1961 in Danville, Kentucky, the second of 10 children, cultivated lovingly by Faith and Frank Walker, Sr. Walker recalls, in the This I Remember volume, a devoted mother whose creativity touched every aspect of her family’s life, from her creative cooking that could turn “a single potato” into a family feast to her creative sewing that could turn cloth scraps into charming dolls or create a prom or wedding dress for his sisters: “I always knew,” Walker writes, “when she was making something, because she’d be singing or humming . . . [as she did] all the way through her home correspondence courses in floral design and interior decorating.” A first generation college student, Walker found his way into one of Gurney Norman’s classes and afterward developed a passion for literature and writing. After receiving his degree from the University of Kentucky, Walker worked in various arts administrative jobs, eventually finishing his M.F.A. at Spalding University so that he could teach on the university level. Walker’s documentary Coal (continued on page 9)

The Poetry and Storytelling of Frank X Walker

• September 23-October 18
Photographic Art Exhibit, Anthology of Appalachian Writers, Gretchen Moran Laskas Volume V, Scarborough Library Reading Room.

• Monday, September 23
5 p.m.: “Storer College: A Community Remembers,” Robert C. Byrd Center for Legislative Studies.
7 p.m.: Film and Discussion, Coal Black Voices, discussion leader Dr. Sylvia Bailey Shurbutt, Reynolds Hall, co-sponsored by the Shepherdstown Film Society.

• Tuesday, September 24
5 p.m.: “The African American Story in Appalachia with Dr. Matthew Fouls,” Robert C. Byrd Center for Legislative Studies.
8 p.m.: Anthology Reception, with Gretchen Moran Laskas, Scarborough Reading Room, sponsored by the West Virginia Center for the Book, Shepherd University Foundation, and Scarborough Library.

• Wednesday, September 25
9 a.m.: Visit with honors students at Martinsburg High School.
10:30 a.m.: Frank X Walker Reading and Reception, Martinsburg Public Library.
7 p.m.: “The Writing Life with Frank X Walker,” Robert C. Byrd Center for Legislative Studies.

• Thursday, September 26
3-4:30 p.m.: Writers Master Class with Frank X Walker, Robert C. Byrd Center for Legislative Studies.
8 p.m.: Scarborough Society Lecture, “Voices from Affrilachia,” Erma Ora Byrd Hall. Walker will receive the Appalachian Heritage Writer’s Award and present the Scarborough Society address, followed by reception and book signing. The West Virginia Fiction Competition awards also will be presented by Walker. Sponsored by the West Virginia Humanities Council and the West Virginia Center for the Book.

• Friday, September 27
8 p.m.: Reading of West Virginia Fiction Competition Award Winners, 19th Annual Appalachian Heritage Festival, Frank Center Theater.

• Saturday, September 28
8 p.m.: Gospel Choir Concert, Frank Center Theater, preceded by Appalachian Heritage Festival events throughout the day.

• Tuesday, October 29
7 p.m.: “Appalachian Haunts and Hauntings,” with storyteller Lyn Ford, Robert C. Byrd Center for Legislative Studies, sponsored by the West Virginia Humanities Council and Shepherd University Diversity and Equity Committee.

• Friday, November 22
7 p.m.: Screening and Discussion, Red Tails, the Story of the Tuskegee Airmen, discussion leader Dr. Matthew Fouls, Reynolds Hall, sponsored by the Shepherdstown Film Society. ✯
Shepherd’s Team River Runner chapter assists wounded veterans

Shepherd University, in partnership with the Martinsburg VA Medical Center, has established a Team River Runner (TRR) chapter to assist wounded veterans and their families find health, healing, and new challenges through an innovative water sports program.

“Team River Runner is a non-profit, all-volunteer national organization that works in conjunction with the Wounded Warrior Project and Disabled Sports USA to help military personnel recover from war-related injuries through kayaking and other paddling sports.

“We really want the veterans to be able to focus on developing new strengths and new skills that support their healing and rehabilitation and to do it in the context of community support,” said Tracy Seffers, registrar at Shepherd and chapter secretary.

Seffers said Shepherd University makes an ideal site because of its indoor pool and the many surrounding water resources and paddle trails, as well as its commitment to community service. She said the chapter is a natural connection between the school and organization.

“Shepherd is connected to the community, and we want to support and develop the community that surrounds us,” Seffers said. “It’s why we educate our students, so they can go out and make a difference, and so we commit to making a difference while we’re here.”

The Department of Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Sport at Shepherd and the national TRR organization are providing kayaks and gear.

Though the national organization supports the chapter monetarily at the onset, in the future it will be self-sustaining through fundraising and donations.

READ posters feature Shepherd celebrities

For the second in a series of posters promoting reading produced by the Scarborough Library, award-winning Shepherd faculty members were featured in photographs with their favorite book.

In addition to Dr. Ed Snyder, 2010 West Virginia Professor of the Year; Dr. Sylvia Shurbutt, 2006 West Virginia Professor of the Year; and Dr. Carol Plautz, 2011 Shepherd Outstanding Teacher, who are featured on the cover of this issue, also photographed for the READ poster project, headed by Ann Watson, dean of the Scarborough Library, were Dr. Amy DeWitt, 2012 Outstanding Teacher, Dr. Heidi Dobish, 2010 Outstanding Teacher, and Shepherd President Suzanne Shipley.

Appalachian Writer-in-Residence

(continued from page 8)

Black Voices was greeted with critical acclaim and won the Jesse Stuart Award in 2003.

After receiving a prestigious Lannan Fellowship for Poetry in 2005, Walker was able to concentrate on his writing and other creative projects. He is recipient of two honorary doctorates, has served on a variety of boards such as the Kentucky Humanities Council, Appalshop, and the Hindeman Settlement School. He is recipient of an Al Smith Fellowship, the 2006 Thomas D. Clark Literary Award for Excellence, and has seen three of his books, Affrilachia, When Winter Come, and Isaac Murphy, turned in plays and performed throughout the country. Walker’s Buffalo Dance was winner of the Lillian Smith Book Award, and Affrilachia was a Kentucky Public Librarians Choice Award nominee.

* Sylvia Bailey Shurbutt

Dr. Amy Dewitt

Dr. Suzanne Shipley

Dr. Heidi Dobish
Sirkiki Diabate’s dream to be a voice for the people has led him to study political science at Shepherd. That dream keeps the junior going when others might quit. And that dream nearly cost him his life.

Diabate’s national government was stable while he was growing up in the Ivory Coast. He finished school and completed advanced certifications. “Everything was good, everything was right,” he said. But in the mid-’90s, his once peaceful nation was wracked with political unrest, oppression, and resistance, which eventually led to a military coup and two civil wars. The country was divided and people were afraid, he said.

Diabate worked as a translator and then a teacher. In an effort to supplement his income and to publicize what he felt were unfair government practices, Diabate took a job writing for a local newspaper in Abidjan, Ivory Coast, in 2002.

“One of our strengths in this little newspaper was that we were part of the people, so whatever was being said was reality, which was annoying the government officials,” Diabate said.

Because of his newspaper stories about discrimination against and exclusion of the country’s northernners, Diabate said he was targeted by the government. He went into hiding, but said he was unafraid and continued his work.

But in 2005, at a police checkpoint, Diabate said he was arrested and taken to a remote area, severely beaten, and left for dead. He survived and fled to Ghana, leaving behind his parents, siblings, and four daughters. From there he came to the United States legally as a refugee in 2007.

“I was relieved. It was a great moment in my life,” he said. “I will never forget how I ended up in the U.S.A. I’m proud of that.”

With the help of the Virginia Council of Churches Refugee Resettlement program, Diabate set himself up in Hagerstown, Maryland. He got a job, driver’s license, and car, and earned an associate’s degree from Hagerstown Community College. There he talked to Kelly Pannill ’05, academic advisor at Shepherd, who told him that his classes would transfer and he could earn his bachelor’s degree in less than two years.

Diabate became a U.S. citizen last summer. He moved to Shepherdstown and started classes at Shepherd in the fall. He credits many at the university who have helped him, including staff members in the Office of Financial Aid, the Division of Student Affairs, Residence Life, and TRiO Student Support Services.

Robin Hosby, housing assignment coordinator in Residence Life, met Diabate when he was looking for on-campus housing. They spent two hours talking in which he shared his story. She said she finds him passionate, kind, and caring, as well as grateful, humble, and proud.

“He is very aware of the benefits of his education and the opportunities he has been afforded since coming to this country,” Hosby said. “I believe that Siriki’s story and the way he lives his life, taking advantage of all opportunities and not taking anything for granted, is an example that we should all follow.”

Diabate was selected to participate in the West Virginia Legislature’s Frasure-Singleton Internship Program in March, which provides 50 students an opportunity to observe the state legislative process for one week during the regular legislative session in Charleston. He said the experience was amazing and he was impressed that legislators would argue on the floor and then eat together at lunch. His internship peers selected him to give the week’s closing speech on that same floor.

“I said thank you overall to Shepherd University for giving this opportunity to some international student from Africa,” he said. “Being able to speak to a congress of one of the American states is a privilege. That is something that will really impact my life.”

Dr. Jacob Stump, assistant professor of political science, is Diabate’s academic advisor and said Diabate speaks with him regularly.

“It is always great for a teacher to have a student who has life experience to draw from and is driven to accomplish his goals—Siriki has both in abundance,” Stump said.

Diabate plans to graduate from Shepherd in a semester or two, and then either go to law school or earn his master’s in political science. He said he wants to be an advocate for refugees. “Because of what happened to me, I have to be a voice to protect people,” he said.

In his free time, Diabate enjoys reading, especially about government, playing soccer, and socializing. “I like meeting with people, talking with them. I like learning about people,” he said.

In those talks, Diabate advises never to take anything for granted, especially the opportunities in this country. “I don’t know if I’m living the American dream, but I think I’m on the path,” he said. “I’m struggling, but it’s because I’m dreaming, and this dream keeps hope in me.”  

Carolyn Wilkie
Al ’67 and Sara ’67 Lueck named Outstanding Alumni

When Al ’67 and Sara Taylor ’67 Lueck attended Shepherd University in the late ’60s when it was still known as Shepherd College, everyone knew each other at the small school of roughly 900 students. Al noticed Sara as she walked along King Street where Ikenberry Hall is located. She knew he was a football player. He asked her out at the beginning of their senior year, and they have been together ever since.

And together they share the honor of being named Shepherd University’s 2013 Outstanding Alumni.

“We’re very humble about this,” Sara said. “Al and I love Shepherd, but we don’t need to be honored.”

They graduated in 1967 with bachelor’s degrees in secondary education and married a few years later. Al became a teacher and retired from the Maryland State Department of Education in 1996. Sara has been the media specialist at Jefferson High School for 35 years.

Today, though each serves Shepherd differently, they are always side-by-side supporting one another.

Al is a longtime member of the Shepherd University Foundation’s board of directors and serves as its secretary. He helped develop the Ram Gridiron Club, which provides scholarships and support for Shepherd football, and is its chair.

He said his efforts are for the students, to educate them so they can help society. “I feel that I’ve walked in their shoes, so I know what they go through to great extent,” Al, who came to Shepherd to play football, said. “I know what they have to do to study here. I appreciate what they do to prepare to play football.”

Monica Lingenfelter, executive vice president of the Shepherd University Foundation, has worked with the Luecks on many endeavors and said Al stands out for his modest yet unrelenting support of Shepherd’s academic and athletic excellence.

“He has generously given his time and talents over decades to encourage and strengthen the coaching staff and players,” she said. “As a former player and coach, alumnus donor, and volunteer leader, he is a role model for our athletes and represents the best of Shepherd University.”

Neither Lueck has missed a homecoming since they graduated. “I think we have the best homecoming in West Virginia, bar none, because our people come back. We knew everybody. We have a good time here,” Al said. They make a day of it with their group by going to the game, tailgating beforehand, and attending the Alumni Association’s event afterward.

Alexis Reed ’06, director of alumni affairs, said the Luecks always go above and beyond for Shepherd and the students, from Al hand-signing and writing notes on more than 900 Ram Gridiron Club letters to Sara spending an entire evening decorating tables and centerpieces by hand for the Hall of Fame.

“The Luecks are truly a gift to Shepherd University, and we are proud to call them alumni,” she said. “I could not think of a more deserving couple for this year’s award.”

Sara is a founding member of the Scarborough Society, which supports and strengthens the Shepherd library, and serves on its board of directors as secretary. She chairs the annual Scarborough Society Gala planning committee. The Luecks were students when the Scarborough Library was built.

“We had boxes with handles on them, and we went in a row and carried the boxes down from Knutti and put them on the shelves,” Sara said. “That was 1966.”

Lingenfelter said Sara is a powerhouse and a force of nature. “In the last 12 years she has directed her considerable talents and energy to support the Scarborough Society,” Lingenfelter said. “Sara has given the best of herself to advance Shepherd University and its library. Her sweet nature, her vivacious approach to life, and her willingness to volunteer her time and treasure make her a standout in any crowd.”

In addition to time, energy, talent, and experience, the Luecks also donate financially to Shepherd and have created four scholarship endowments which are designated for football players. Also, they are members of the Joseph P. McMurran Society, which is comprised of donors who provide for the future of the university with a planned gift or bequest.

The couple appreciates Shepherd’s efforts in recent years to support of Shepherd’s academic and athletic excellence. (continued to page 15)
Class Notes

’64
Dr. Robert A. Holmes was honored on May 14 by the Atlanta Technical College Board of Trustees, who dedicated the Robert A. “Bob” Holmes Law Library in his name. In her remarks, Atlanta Technical College President Alvjeta Peterman Thomas highlighted numerous examples of Dr. Holmes’s business, community, academic, and political leadership over the course of his career, which spans more than four decades. Dr. Thomas noted that, as a representative of the Georgia General Assembly, Bob had introduced legislation to address injustices in Georgia, such as the Georgia Racial Justice Act and the Georgia Environmental Justice Act. He served as an expert witness in several federal district court cases for the American Civil Liberties Union Voting Rights Project and as a consultant to the Southern Poverty Law Center.

Of the decision to name the law library after Bob, she said, “You have devoted a lifetime of academic research and professional work to political education and the pursuit of justice. The resources provided by the Robert A. “Bob” Holmes Law Library will contribute significantly to the college’s students, paralegal studies, and criminal justice programs.”

Bob earned his Ph.D. in political science from Columbia University at the age of 25. He retired from the Georgia General Assembly in January 2009 after 17 consecutive terms, during which he sponsored or co-sponsored more than 200 laws that were enacted, became the first African American to serve on the General Assembly’s Budget Subcommittee, and served as chair of the largest legislative Black Caucus in the United States. In addition to his 34-year run in the Georgia General Assembly, Bob served as director of the Southern Center for Studies in Public Policy in Atlanta, Georgia, from 1989 until his retirement in 2005. He also is a former administrator and faculty member at several colleges and universities, including Columbia University and Clark Atlanta University. The recipient of more than 100 honors and awards, Bob received a doctorate of humanities honorary degree from Shepherd in 2001 and served on the board of the Shepherd University Foundation for many years.

’83
Special Agent Steven Liss was awarded the FBI Director’s Award for Excellence for Distinguished Service to the Law Enforcement Community for his extraordinary contributions while serving as an FBI special agent (SA), assigned to the Major Crimes Task Force (MCTF), Kabul, Afghanistan, in 2010.

The prestigious Director’s Award for Excellence is among the highest honors that can be received by an FBI employee at all levels of service. While serving in Afghanistan with the MCTF, Steven mentored and trained Afghan law enforcement on high-level investigations such as kidnapping, corruption, and organized crime. He also served in Iraq in 2006, assisting the Iraq government with its investigation of war crimes committed by the Saddam Hussein regime. Steven has been in the FBI for 26 years and currently serves in the Kalispell, Montana, Resident Agency of the FBI.

’99
Seth Sirbaugh, of Tribe Design and Branding, was the winner of a national Gold ADDY for the sales promotion-packaging campaign for Monocacy Brewing Company’s Riot Rye. A member of the American Advertising Federation of Greater Frederick, Maryland, Seth is the principal of Tribe (http://tribecol.com).

’07
Matthew Jeremy Edler received his master of arts degree in music therapy from Immaculata University in January. Prior to completing his master’s, Matthew became a board-certified music therapist (MT-BC) after completing coursework as well as a six-month internship.

Along with four other professional music therapists, Matthew published an article in the fall 2012 edition of Music Therapy Perspectives. The article, titled “A Year in Review,” examined music therapy articles published in English-speaking journals in 2011. He is currently working full-time for a nonprofit organization in Pennsylvania.

’08

Class notes, weddings, engagements, new arrivals, and obituaries can be submitted by e-mail to alumni@shepherd.edu. Photos files are welcome and should be 300 dpi.

Deadline for the spring 2014 issue of the Shepherd University Magazine is November 15.

New Arrival

Join the Alumni Association
Shepherd boasts an incredible network of more than 16,000 alumni. Please support and celebrate the university by joining the Shepherd University Alumni Association today. For more information, please contact the Office of Alumni Affairs at 304-876-5157, alumni@shepherd.edu, or visit shepconnect.shepherd.edu.
Weddings and Engagements

**Eric Madison Jett ’98** and Erin Dianne Jones were married March 9 at El Dorado Royale Resort in Riviera Maya, Mexico. Alumni attending the celebration event included Floyd Martinez ’98, Kelvin Stevens ’98, and Jim Coyle ’98. Eric is a senior research consultant for Medpace Medical Device and Erin is an attorney in New York City.

**Whitney Rose Bane ’09** is engaged to marry to Richard H. Walls, Jr. Whitney is employed as an activations specialist at First Data.

**Ariel Kesselring ’09** and **Joey Hayes ’09** were married July 24, 2012 at St. Peter’s Lutheran Church in Shepherdstown.

**Laura Johnson ’09** is engaged to marry Chris Perry.

**Brittany Rachelle Michael ’12** and **Seth Daniel Eby ’12** were married July 14, 2012 at Cedar Grove Mennonite Church in Greencastle, Pennsylvania. Brittany is employed by the Greencastle-Antrim School District. Seth is employed by Berkeley County Schools. The couple resides in Marion, Pennsylvania.

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**Delaware alumni gather in April**

Alumni gathered in Sussex, Delaware, at the Sussex Pines Country Club on April 13 for a reunion. Attendees included, front row (l. to r.) Chris Henderson ’69, Dick Adams ’67, Ron Dickerson ’68, Tom Henderson ’68, Joyce Paquette, and Roger Hovermale ’72, back row, Rita Hovermale ’79, Sue Breeding ’72, Sandy Vickers ’70, Judy Wilson ’74, Ed Vickers ’71, Coach Bill Yoast, Ron Breeding ’70, Jeff Wilson, Dan Tabler ’72, and Shepherd representatives Alexis Reed ’06, director of alumni affairs, and Aaron Ryan, assistant athletic director for external affairs.
Wednesday, October 2
4 p.m. ★ 13th Annual Academic Bowl.
Hosted by alumnus BOB FLEENOR ’74, Shepherd’s own five-time Jeopardy champion, Student Center, Storer Ballroom.

Thursday, October 3
9 p.m. ★ Annual Student Skit Competition.
Enjoy the singing, dancing, acting, and antics of Shepherd students as they create and perform a thematic skit, Student Center, Storer Ballroom.

Friday, October 4
9:30 a.m. ★ 22nd Annual Alumni Association Golf Outing.
Join friends and fellow alumni for this scramble-style outing. Registration is $125 per player; price includes green fees, cart, breakfast, lunch, and awards presentation. For sponsorship opportunities and to register, contact Texie Roden at 304-876-5524. Tee off at Cress Creek Golf and Country Club will be 9:30 a.m.

2:30 p.m. ★ Founder’s Day Celebration.

Saturday, October 5
9 a.m. ★ Alumni Breakfast.
Visit with old and new friends on the lawn of McMurrin Hall as you enjoy a light breakfast, then grab the best seat in Shepherdstown for the Homecoming parade. Breakfast hosted by the Shepherd University Alumni Association and Shepherd University Foundation.

10 a.m. to 6 p.m. ★ Bookstore Open.
Stop by the Bookstore, Student Center lower level, to pick up your Ram apparel. SUAA members can receive a 10 percent discount on regularly priced items when they present their membership card at time of purchase. Visit online at www.shepherdbook.com.

10:15 a.m. ★ Homecoming Parade, German Street.

Noon ★ Homecoming Game, Rams vs. University of Charleston, Ram Stadium.

Halftime ★ Introduction of the 2013 Homecoming Court.

4 to 8 p.m. ★ Alumni Association Homecoming Post-Game Party.
Take a Walk of Fame at Shepherd’s Biggest Bash at the Clarion Hotel and Conference Center; $10 admission (SUAA members receive discounted admission of $5), includes raffle chance, craft beer (with valid ID and while supplies last), and music. Cash bar. Buffet will be available for purchase through the Clarion. Everyone welcome—you’re all VIPs at our party!

Updates to the Homecoming 2013 schedule will be posted on shepconnect.shepherd.edu beginning September 2.

Additional Fall Events

September 7: Home Football Opener vs. Shippensburg.
Join us for the kickoff of the Shepherd Rams football season at Ram Stadium. The Ram Gridiron Club will host a tailgate prior to the game. At 6 p.m., the Second Annual Bull Roast benefiting Shepherd baseball, softball, and lacrosse will be held at the Clarion Hotel and Conference Center. Bull roast tickets are $40 each and available through the Office of Advancement at 304-876-5524.

September 21: Family Weekend.
October 18: Hall of Fame, call 304-876-5527 for tickets.
November 9: Military Appreciation Day.
Class of 1963 joins the Emeritus Club

Members of the class of 1963 celebrated their 50-year anniversary and were inducted into the Emeritus Club during the group’s annual luncheon in May. The Emeritus Club is made up of alumni who graduated 50 or more years ago. Pictured above, front row (l. to r.) are C. Lee Cook, Betty Marshall Walters-Lauser, Betsy Mills Dove, Bonnie O’Rourke Brannom, Sandra Carlotti Zimmerman, and Bonnie Garvin, back row; Ronald Taylor, Diane Steece, John E. Peiffer III, Zack Karantonis, Ron Engle, Harry Garvin, and Paul Apple.

Young alumni make gift to the community

In February, Shepherd University G.O.L.D. (Graduates of the Last Decade) alumni announced their support and contribution, on behalf of the university, for the Shepherdstown Welcome Sign Project, headed by the Rotary Club of Shepherdstown.

The sign, which is expected to be finished in September, will welcome visitors to the town as they enter from Maryland on Route 480. This project will help create a focal point that will reflect the character of the community and further advance the university’s goals of assisting visitors as they navigate through the area.

This contribution represents a collective gift from the Shepherd University Classes of 2009, 2010, 2011, and 2012. The classes joined together to support a gift that reflects the collaborative service Shepherd University students, both past and present, contribute to the community.

Luecks named Outstanding Alumni

(continued from page 11)

improve the appearance of the campus. “This is the best I’ve seen the campus since 1961,” Al said. “It’s more beautiful than it’s ever been since I’ve been here, and that’s a good thing.”

Friend Tom White, research associate at Shepherd’s George Tyler Moore Center for the Study of the Civil War, nominated them for the award. “They richly deserve this honor,” White said. “They work as a team. Together they support many different efforts and programs at Shepherd.”

White would ask Sara about Al’s history at Shepherd when he saw her at church on Sundays, saying he wanted to nominate Al for something because he does so much for Shepherd. It wasn’t until after Sara and Al were named that she saw White again at church and learned it was he who nominated them both for the Outstanding Alumni Award, telling her that he considered them a package.

“Tom said we do everything together and I said, ‘Well, that’s true. We do,’” Sara said. 

Carolyn Wilkie
Obituaries

William Weber Grove ’48, of Berkeley Springs, died March 29, 2013. He received a master’s degree from West Virginia University and served in the U.S. Army CIC for two years during the Korean War. He retired from Morgan County Schools after 25 years as a teacher and administrator. He was involved with the operation of Spohrs Crossroads Cemetery for more than 50 years. A member of the West Virginia Association of Retired School Employees, he was a former member of the Berkeley Springs Lions Club and Alderton-Dawson American Legion Post No. 60.

William Craighill Perry ’50, of Charles Town, died April 7, 2013. He retired as a horseman’s accountant at the Charles Town Races with more than 60 years of service. He was a former Mason and a member of the Henry Kyd Douglas Camp Sons of Confederate Veterans. He served in the field artillery with the U.S. Army and received the Bronze Star.

J. Raymond Bowers ’61, of Falls Church, Virginia, died November 14, 2012. For 36 years he was the owner and operator of a cheese and dairy products stand at the Eastern Market on Capitol Hill. From 1954 to 1957, he served in the Air Force, including a tour as an intelligence specialist in Libya. He briefly taught public school in Prince William County and Fairfax County before joining his father in business in 1964. He continued his career as an educator by teaching GED classes and counseling incarcerated youths at the D.C. correctional facility at Lorton. He also worked in the office of the educational advisor at the engineering school at Fort Belvoir and, from 1970 to 1991, was a training and development officer with the Secret Service.

Joseph Charles Hockman ’61, of Manassas, Virginia, died January 13, 2013. He was a Little All American in football at Shepherd and voted to the All-Century Dream Team for the college conference. He started his career at Culpeper High School in 1961, but moved shortly thereafter to Manassas in 1964 as teacher and coach at the new Stonewall Jackson High School where he remained until his retirement in 1995. He was the assistant football coach and head wrestling coach for almost 30 years.

Ronald Lee Clatterbuck ’62, of Berkeley Springs, died March 30, 2013. He retired as a teacher as well as a baseball and football coach from Berkeley Springs High School. After retirement, he continued to work as a substitute teacher and remained active with the athletic department. He and his father founded and operated Honey C Stables in Berkeley Springs, and founded the Morgan County Saddle Club. He was a member of the West Virginia Thoroughbred Horsemen’s Association and was a licensed thoroughbred trainer and an outfitter for the American Forestry Association. He had operated the riding stables at both Coolfont and Cacapon State Park and had been featured in articles about his trail rides in Southern Living magazine and The Baltimore Sun.

John Thorn Updike ’67, of Martinsburg, died February 12, 2013. At Shepherd he was a member of Delta Sigma Pi fraternity. He worked in the family business, Burkhart Oil Company, and went on to establish John’s Pool Supplies and Updike LLC. He was a Quiet Birdman and a member of the Masonic Lodge Equality No. 44 and Scottish Rite.

Roxanna Kay Walker McClung ’69, of Martinsburg, died February 20, 2013. She received a master’s degree in elementary education from West Virginia University in 1976. She taught for 35 years in the elementary schools of Berkeley County and Laurel, Delaware. She retired as a full-time Title I reading specialist at Rosemont Elementary School in 2005 and then worked for several years as a part-time reading specialist at Rosemont and Hedgesville elementary schools.

Thomas Whesley Andrews ’72, of Monroe Township, New Jersey, died January 24, 2013. He was a practicing attorney for 35 years in Pennsylvania and New Jersey. He is survived by his wife, Mary Dean Andrews ’74.

Joseph H. Bussard Jr. ’73, of Titusville, Florida, died April 10, 2013. He retired as director of material managers for Universal Health Services.

Katherine Lee Hawk ’78, of Cody, Wyoming, died April 17, 2013. While at Shepherd, she was voted Homecoming queen. She taught at Hedgesville Elementary, then later at Marlowe Elementary to finish out her 19-year career.

Paul Hetzer ’88, of Alexandria, Virginia, died March 2, 2013, 10 years after being diagnosed with adenoid cystic carcinoma. He was director of finance, controlling, and administration for the Americas at Software AG USA, Inc. He was also a certified official for Northern Virginia Swim League and Virginia High School League and financial secretary at Advent Lutheran Church for 20 years. He is survived by his wife, Marianne Whittaker Hetzer ’88.

Dawn Jermaine French ’96, of Martinsburg, died April 23, 2013. As a registered nurse, she worked at Jefferson Memorial Hospital, Winchester Medical Center, and the VA Medical Center in the med-surg emergency room, ICU unit, and GI floor. She graduated from Shepherd with honors from the nursing program.

Whitney Lynn Barrett ’02, of Harpers Ferry, died March 27, 2013. She was the program manager for the Jefferson County Development Authority. •
ShepCONNECT to sport a redesigned look

The Office of Advancement and Alumni Affairs will proudly unveil the newly redesigned look of ShepCONNECT this fall. This online community, which was first launched in 2009, will receive a fresh new look including a more user friendly navigation.

ShepCONNECT is open to all, but offers exclusive features for Shepherd graduates, such as an online directory of alumni, where alumni have their own profile to share personal and professional information, photos, and additional postings with other Shepherd alumni.

On ShepCONNECT alumni are able to see and register for upcoming events, make a gift to Shepherd, find old friends, post class notes, and more.

If you have not created your account on ShepCONNECT, please contact the Office of Alumni Affairs at 304-876-5524 or alumni@shepherd.edu to receive your ID number. Register today and get connected at shepconnect.shepherd.edu.

Your alumni dues make a difference

Shepherd Alumni Association members: Give yourselves a pat on the back! In the last five years, you have helped provide much needed support to the university. Since 2007, the Alumni Association has donated more than $230,000 to various university programs including:

- Scarborough Library endowment: $60,811
- Scholarships: $25,000
- Non-revenue sports: $22,424
- Campus relations and student events: $8,614
- Shepherd University Magazine: $20,164

Shepherd University is pleased to announce the launch of the Leadership Circle. The group was formed to honor and recognize the work of Dr. Suzanne Shipley during her first six years as president.

Membership in the Leadership Circle is extended to individuals who have shown uncommon commitment to Shepherd’s academic excellence through their annual support. Their willingness to invest in Shepherd through annual gifts of $1,000 to $5,000 (or more) has set the leadership standard for all alumni and friends of the university. Their gifts to the university are a true demonstration of Shepherd passion and pride.

Charter Member List

Jenny Allen
Ray and Mary Alvarez
Paul and Judith Armstrong
Scott Beard and Alan Gibson
Kenneth and Natasha Boone
Marcia Brand
Michael Hudson
Stanley and Judith Ikenberry
Catherine Irwin
Bill and Monica Lingenfelter
Alan and Sara Lueck
Holly and Keith McCall
Bob and Tia McMillan
Diane and Dave Melby
R.B. Seem
Stephen Skinner and Jeffrey Gustafson
Michael and Wendy Smith
Jack and Deborah Thayer
Susan and Paul Thorniley
Edna Jean and Austin Webber
Paul and Lisa Welch
Patricia Wright
Alfred Young
Lisa and John Younis

Charter membership in the Leadership Circle is open through June 2014. If you are interested in becoming a charter member or making an annual gift—of any size—to support The Shepherd Fund, please contact Julia Krall, director of annual giving, via e-mail at jkrall@shepherd.edu or by phone at 304-876-5526.
The Shepherd University Athletic Hall of Fame will induct four new members this fall at the annual induction banquet on Friday, October 18 at the Clarion Hotel and Conference Center in Shepherdstown. Former men’s soccer coach Mike Doran and Cassie Murray ’07 (women’s basketball) join football standouts Rob Bradford ’87 and Joel Gordon ’03 as the 28th class to be inducted. This new class brings the total number of members in the Shepherd Athletic Hall of Fame to 133.

The quartet will also be honored at the Shepherd-Notre Dame of Ohio football game on Saturday, October 19 as part of Hall of Fame Weekend festivities.

Mike Doran, of Estero, Florida, was head coach of the men’s soccer team from 1989-97. Doran, who is considered the father of Shepherd men’s soccer, had a 50-win career, the second most in program history. He gained WVIAC Coach of the Year honors in 1994 and 1996. Doran played on three Irish national championships in 1969, 1970, and 1971. He was an All-London selection from 1963-73 and a member of the Great Britain All-Star team in 1972.

Cassie Murray, of Hagerstown, Maryland, was a four-time First Team All-WVIAC performer for the women’s basketball team from 1999-2004. One of the program’s all-time greats, Murray is the program’s all-time career leader in three-point field goals (161), three-point attempts (484), and steals (224). Her 1,494 career points rank her second, while her 768 rebounds place her sixth on the Shepherd all-time list.

Rob Bradford, of Apopka, Florida, was a four-year player for the football team from 1983-86. He was a member of the WVIAC Champion and NAIA Playoff teams in 1983 and 1986. Bradford hauled in 51 receptions for a school-record 1,121 yards and nine touchdowns in 1986. His 1,121 receiving yards in a season is still a record, while his nine touchdown grabs tie a Shepherd season mark.

Joel Gordon, of Shepherdstown, was a four-year starter at quarterback for the football team from 1999-2002. A three-year team captain, Gordon holds Shepherd career marks for passing yards (7,236), completions (522), pass attempts (977), touchdown passes (66), total offense (7,677), and touchdowns responsible for (70). He led the Rams to the 1999 WVIAC title and a post-season appearance. Gordon also has played a part in Shepherd’s success as an assistant football coach. The Rams have won four conference titles and made four post-season appearances during his tenure as an assistant.

“The newest members of the Hall of Fame each bring with them a distinguished career of excellence,” said B.J. Pumroy, director of athletics. “The members joining us represent what our current athletes should aspire to be both in their playing careers and in their professional lives.”

The Athletic Hall of Fame banquet will begin with a social hour at 6 p.m. followed by the dinner and induction ceremony at 7 p.m. Tickets are $35 and will be available for purchase beginning September 6 through the Shepherd University Office of Advancement by calling 304-876-5527 or 304-876-5524.

Matt McCarty ’10 named head baseball coach; Jackson ’11 named assistant coach

Matt McCarty ’10 has been named head baseball coach after serving as the interim coach. Anthony “A.J.” Jackson ’11 has been elevated from interim to full-time assistant baseball coach.

McCarty led the Rams to a 28-20 overall mark with a 21-10 conference record in 2013. In his first season at the helm, McCarty had two players (Ryan Messina and Michael Lott) garner second team Academic All-American accolades and another (Josh McCauley) was selected in the MLB draft. McCarty served as full-time assistant coach for the 2012 season and was a part-time assistant coach in 2011. During his two years as a player for Shepherd, he was a standout pitcher and outfielder earning All-American honors his junior year.

Jackson spent the 2012 season as a part-time assistant coach. During his career he was a two-time All-WVIAC selection and played catcher on the 2009 championship team.

McCarty and Jackson were players in the 2009 season when the Rams won the WVIAC title and both served as assistant coaches in 2012 when the team won the title.

“Coaches McCarty and Jackson met or exceeded expectations from the 2013 season in which they served in the interim roles,” said B.J. Pumroy, director of athletics. “To have All-American recognitions, an Academic All-American, and an MLB draft pick speak to their abilities. The fact that the team recorded the highest conference winning percentage since 2009 and was active on campus and in the community made this selection one that I am proud to make. This staff has won championships as players and assistant coaches and I fully expect them to have Shepherd competing for Mountain East Conference titles.”

Cassie Murray

Chip Ransom
Melanie Ford has been named assistant director of athletics

Melanie Ford has been named assistant director of athletics and will oversee NCAA, Mountain East Conference, and federal compliance issues as well as assist in other administrative duties within Shepherd’s 12-sport NCAA Division II Athletic Department.

Ford leaves behind a coaching legacy having served the women’s basketball program for the past 11 seasons including the past four as head coach. She directed the Rams to a 20-win season in 2011-12 and had a career record of 66-50 and a 53-35 mark in conference action. Her teams advanced to the WVIAC semifinals twice and won their first round tournament game all four years. During Ford’s tenure as Shepherd’s top assistant coach, the Rams recorded a 116-88 overall mark—highlighted by a recorded-setting 24-7 record in 2007-08. That season the Rams captured the WVIAC title and advanced to the NCAA II Sweet 16 in the program’s first-ever post-season appearance. The Rams posted five winning seasons over that seven-year period and also had five seasons with 15 wins or more. Ford has served the past two seasons on the NCAA Division II Women’s Basketball Regional Advisory Committee.

During her tenure as head coach, the team captured the Rams Cup twice since its 2010-11 inception by showing the team’s involvement throughout the department and community. She also assisted the entire department on projects including moving from waiver to dollar-based financial aid as well as developing streaming and other technology capabilities.

Off the court during her 11-year tenure, the team also excelled in the classroom and in the community. The team was recognized four times as a top 15 program by the Women’s Basketball Coaches Association for having a high cumulative grade point average and had four WVIAC Female Senior Athlete Award Winners. The WVIAC also awarded the team the Red Hartman Award (Sportsmanship) twice during Ford’s tenure.

“Coach Ford has the respect of the peers in the department, the campus community, and the coaches she has been competing against. Her abilities to lead have been quite evident, and I feel fortunate that she will be assisting in the administration of the entire department,” said B.J. Pumroy, director of athletics.

SU joins Mountain East Conference

On July 1, the Mountain East Conference officially welcomed its 12 charter members—including Shepherd University—to the newest NCAA Division II league.

Shepherd University joins the new league’s members which include West Virginia schools Concord University, Fairmont State University, Glenville State College, University of Charleston, West Liberty University, West Virginia State University, Wheeling Jesuit University, and West Virginia Wesleyan College; Ohio schools Notre Dame College and Urbana University; and the University of Virginia’s College at Wise.

The new conference begins competition this fall after receiving approval from the NCAA in February. Eleven schools are currently members of NCAA Division II with Virginia-Wise nearing completion of Candidacy Year 1 of the NCAA Division II membership process.

The 12-team regional all-sports league will sponsor championship competition in 16 men’s and women’s sports during the 2013-14 academic year.

Baseball players Lott, Messina earn All-America honors

Two members of the baseball team gained first team All-America honors this season.

Junior outfielder Michael Lott, of Woodbridge, Virginia, was named a first team 2013 ABCA Division II All-America Team selection, while junior outfielder Ryan Messina, of St. James, New York, was a first team choice by both Daktronics and the National Collegiate Baseball Writers Association (NCBWA).

Lott batted .406 for the Rams this year. He drove in 32 runs and scored a team-best 54. Lott added a team-high 19 doubles, two triples, and three home runs. He drew 23 walks and went 28-of-33 in stolen bases this season. His 28 stolen bases set a new Shepherd season mark.

Messina ranked third nationally with a .444 batting average. He also ranked third in slugging percentage (.781), sixth in both home runs (14) and home runs per game (0.29), and seventh in total bases (132). Messina had 55 runs batted in and 46 runs scored. He also belted 13 doubles, a triple, and 14 home runs on the year. Messina added a .515 on-base percentage. He also gained NCBWA National Hitter of the Week honors and similar accolades from D2BaseballNews.com in mid-April.
Spring sports round-up

Baseball
Baseball finished with a 26-22 overall mark with a 21-10 record in WVIAC action. The Rams posted their best conference record since the 2009 season.

Five team members were named to the 2013 WVIAC All-Conference Team. Junior pitcher Paul Hvozdevic, of Herndon, Virginia, junior outfielder Ryan Messina, of St. James, New York, junior outfielder Michael Lott, of Woodbridge, Virginia, and freshman reliever Ryan Pansch, of Charles Town, earned first team honors. Senior pitcher Davis Hall, of Reston, Virginia, gained second team honors.

Hvozdevic gained first team honors for the second consecutive year. He posted a 10-5 overall mark with a 3.66 ERA. He had a team-best 85 strikeouts and just 16 walks in 93.1 innings. He had five complete games and a pair of shutouts on the year.

Messina was among the nation's leaders with a .444 batting average. He added 55 runs batted in and 46 runs scored. Messina also had 13 doubles, a triple, and 14 home runs on the year. He had a .515 on-base percentage and a .781 slugging percentage.

Lott had a .406 batting average, scored 54 runs, and drove in 32. Lott added 19 doubles, a pair of triples, and three home runs.

Pansch had a 4-3 record with a pair of saves and a team-best 3.17 ERA. He had 64 strikeouts and just 16 walks in 54 innings. His 20 appearances were the most on the staff.

Hall had a 7-3 mark with a 3.99 ERA. He recorded 57 strikeouts in 76.2 innings in 15 appearances.

Softball
The softball team finished with a 23-27 overall mark with a 13-11 record in conference play.

Five team members were named to the 2013 All-WVIAC Softball team. Sophomore outfielder Taylor Schaefer, of Dunkirk, Maryland, gained first team honors, while sophomore first baseman Savannah Snyder, of Elkton, Maryland, was a second team choice. Senior outfielder Bianca Biondillo, of Canfield, Ohio, junior catcher Carly Schmidt, of Leesburg, Virginia, and sophomore outfielder Shanan Plunkett, of Hagerstown, Maryland, were honorable mention selections.

Schaefer, a second team choice last year, led the Rams with a .395 batting average. She drove in 21 runs and scored 36. Schaefer also topped the team in on-base percentage with a .451 mark. She added 11 doubles, a triple, and three home runs.

Snyder had a .337 batting average. She led the team with 37 runs batted in, 39 runs scored, and eight home runs. Snyder also topped the team in total bases (99) and slugging percentage (.586). She added 14 doubles and a pair of triples. Her eight home runs on the year tied a Shepherd single season record.

Biondillo, an All-Conference selection for the third time in her career, posted a .319 batting average. She drove in 19 runs and scored 23. She added seven doubles, two triples, and a home run. Biondillo was 5-of-6 in stolen bases.

Schmidt had a .311 batting average. She drove in 29 runs and scored 31. She added nine doubles, two triples, and seven home runs.

Plunkett recorded a .319 batting average. She drove in 29 runs and scored 31. She led the team with 16 doubles and three triples and added three home runs. Plunkett was 4-of-4 in stolen bases.

Lacrosse
The women’s lacrosse team finished the year with a 10-6 overall mark. The 10 victories were the second most in program history.

The Rams had eight games in which they scored 20 goals or more including a record-setting 29-goal effort in a win over Findlay. Shepherd ranked second nationally in scoring offense (17.31 goals per game), fourth in draw controls (16.06 per game), and eighth in points (412).

Sophomore attacker Georgia Karr, of Eldersburg, Maryland, was named Division II Independent Women’s Lacrosse Co-Player of the Year.

Karr ranked No. 16 in the country in and points per game and No. 24 in total points, while sitting at No. 13 in assists per game and No. 15 in assists per game. In 2012, Karr was a first team All-Independent selection and also earned an All-Independent Freshman Team nod.

Karr was joined by teammate Alyx Albano, of Wayne, New Jersey, as a first team selection as Albano earned recognition as a defender. Albano had four goals and two assists on the year. She added 43 ground balls, 26 caused turnovers, and 10 draw controls.

Senior midfielder Nicole Ruane, of Sykesville, Maryland, sophomore attacker/midfielder Kelsey Eagan, of Baltimore, Maryland, and freshman defender Kelsey Phelan, of Thurmont, Maryland, each gained second team accolades.

Ruane, a first team selection last year, led the Rams in goals (49) and tied Albano for the team lead in caused turnovers (26). She also had 15 assists, 27 draw controls, and 25 ground balls. Her 64 points were second on the team. Ruane completed her career as the program’s all-time leader in goals (202), points (266), ground balls (148), draw controls (178), and caused turnovers (90).

Eagan, who also plays for the Shepherd women’s soccer team, had 41 goals and 17 assists for 58 points this year. She had 21 ground balls and 10 caused turnovers, and three draw controls.

Phelan had one goal and two assists for three points this year. Her 29 ground balls are tied for third on the team while her 17 caused turnovers are third. She added six draw controls.

Freshman midfielder Erin Phelan, of Thurmont, Maryland, and freshman attacker Hunter Morris, of Severna Park, Maryland, were named to the All-Freshman Team.

Phelan had 34 goals and 10 assists for 44 points. She tied for second on the team in draw controls with 41. She added 12 ground balls and four caused turnovers.

Morris has 26 goals and 17 assists for 43 points. She tied for second on the team in draw controls with 41. She also had 19 ground balls and 13 caused turnovers.

(continued on page 23)
Student-athletes named to WVIAC Honor Roll

Twenty-three Shepherd student-athletes have been selected to the 2012-13 Commissioner’s Honor Roll. Qualifying student-athletes are classified as a junior or senior and have obtained a 3.3 or higher cumulative GPA on a 4.0 scale at the end of the term of attendance in which the sport was concluded.

Morgan Johnson, Elkins, Women’s Basketball, Biology
Justin Bryan, Charles Town, Men’s Basketball, Accounting
Taylor Boyle, Churchville, Maryland, Men’s Tennis, Recreation/Leisure Studies
Jimyse Brown, Rankin, Pennsylvania, Women’s Basketball, Recreation/Leisure Studies
Jenny Cavey, Sykesville, Maryland, Women’s Lacrosse, Recreation/Leisure Studies
Lauren Gardner, Clarkston, Michigan, Volleyball, Psychology
Robert Hayes, Sterling, Virginia, Football, Recreation/Leisure Studies
Logan Holloman, Hedgesville, Men’s Basketball, Secondary Education
Michael Lesko, Mt. Airy, Maryland, Men’s Tennis, Political Science
Melani Lewis, Bay Shore, New York, Volleyball, Elementary Education
Michael Lott, Woodbridge, Virginia, Baseball, Master of Business Administration
Sricharan Mahavadi, Martinsburg, Men’s Tennis, Biology
Jess Mason, Martinsburg, Softball, Business Administration
Troy McNeill, Daleville, Virginia, Football, Recreation/Leisure Studies
Kasey Mercier, Baltimore, Maryland, Volleyball, Recreation/Leisure Studies
Sara Michael, Winchester, Virginia, Volleyball, Psychology
Erin Miller, Elkridge, Maryland, Women’s Soccer, Elementary Education
Chad Murphy, North Olmsted, Ohio, Baseball, Recreation/Leisure Studies
Stefan Pearson, Baltimore, Maryland, Men’s Basketball, Recreation/Leisure Studies
Carly Schmidt, Leesburg, Virginia, Softball, Secondary Education
Al Starlings, Mt. Airy, Maryland, Men’s Tennis, Biology
Kent Thomas, Charles Town, Men’s Tennis, Secondary Education
Kayla Walker, Palmyra, Virginia, Volleyball, Mathematics

Murphy earns Capital One Academic All-American honors

Senior catcher Chad Murphy, of North Olmsted, Ohio, was named to the Capital One Academic All-America® Division II baseball team as selected by the College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA). Murphy gained second team honors.

Murphy, who boasts a 3.40 grade point average as a recreation/leisure studies major, joins Brian Collins (a third team choice in 2010), Keith Koenig (a second team selection in 1997), and Ty Hart (a third team choice in 1997) as the only Shepherd baseball players to gain Academic All-American honors.

Murphy was also a standout on the field for the Rams this year as he batted .401 with 50 RBIs and 52 runs scored. He had 15 doubles, a pair of triples, and six home runs.

The Capital One Division II Academic All-America® program is financially supported by the NCAA Division II national governance structure to assist CoSIDA with handling the awards fulfillment aspects for the 2012-13 D-II Academic All-America® teams program.
Director of athletics B.J. Pumroy recently announced athletics award winners for the 2012-13 year.

Men’s basketball team member Chad Moore, of Winchester, Virginia, received the Male Athlete of the Year and Male Senior Athlete of the Year awards, while senior Emily Daniel, of Beaver, a member of the women’s basketball team, took Female Athlete of the Year and Senior Female Athlete of the Year honors.

Moore, who gained honorable mention All-American honors, led the WVIAC in scoring and ranked eighth nationally with a 22.9 points per game average. He also averaged 9.0 rebounds (ranked tied for 31st in NCAA II) and 2.52 steals (ranked 13th in NCAA II). Moore finished a brilliant career with 2,083 points to rank fifth on the all-time Shepherd scoring list. His 1,034 rebounds rank him fourth, while his 227 steals place him in a tie for second on the Shepherd all-time list.

Daniel led the Rams in scoring (14.4 ppg), rebounding (7.9 rpg), and minutes (33.5 mpg). She put an exclamation point on a stellar career with 25 points and a career-high 20 rebounds in a one-point double overtime loss to West Liberty in the WVIAC Tournament quarterfinals. Daniel finished her career in seventh place on the Shepherd all-time scoring list with 1,167 points. Her 805 career rebounds rank her fourth on the Shepherd all-time list.

Men’s basketball team member Justin Bryan, of Charles Town, and volleyball player Kasey Mercier of Baltimore, Maryland, were named WVIAC Senior Scholar-Athlete award winners.

Maja Young, unofficial photographer and Shepherd superfan, was named the winner of the Ram Award. The award is given to an individual who exemplifies the ideals of an NCAA II program (Passion-Balance-Resourcefulness-Service-Learning-Sportsmanship).

Head football coach Monte Cater gained Coach of the Year honors.

Cater guided the Rams to an 8-3 mark as the WVIAC champions in 2012. The Cater-led Rams won their 13th conference championship in past 26 years and also advanced to the postseason for the ninth time under his leadership.

The Shepherd men’s tennis team earned the award as the male team with the top grade point average, while the Shepherd women’s basketball team was awarded as the female team with the top grade point average.

The Rams Cup award, selected by the Student Athlete Advisory Committee, was presented to the women’s basketball team. ✶ Chip Ransom
**Athletics development**

**Ram Nation**

Now in its third year, Ram Nation continues to serve the unrestricted needs of the Rams by assisting with funding not met through the state-appropriated budget. Through fundraising efforts and programs, Ram Nation gifts have assisted with various athletics projects.

This past year, private support assisted the athletics department with enhancements to the varsity weight room and provided initial funding support to the construction of the new soccer complex. This year Ram Nation will award two $1,000 scholarships to a male and female student-athlete. Student-athletes will participate in an essay writing contest and a committee will determine the recipients. The winners will be announced at the Chalk Talk Lunch Series on September 6.

For more information on Ram Nation, please contact Aaron Ryan, assistant athletic director for external affairs, at 304-876-5527 or aryan@shepherd.edu.

**New parking for football season**

In an effort to better serve Shepherd football fans, the athletics department will offer reserved parking spaces for all home football games. For $40, fans can purchase reserved spaces in Lot B, the gated area behind the Scarborough Library, for the season. Spaces will be available for purchase on game days for $10 each. All proceeds from reserved parking spaces will directly benefit Shepherd athletics and will continue to propel all of Shepherd’s programs to greater success. To reserve your space, please call 304-876-5527 or 304-876-5524.

**Moore garners All-American honors**

Senior forward Chad Moore (pictured above, center), of Winchester, Virginia, was named to the 2013 Division II Bulletin All-America Team. Moore is the first Ram to gain All-American honors since Ben Stephens in 1993. He was an honorable mention selection.

Moore, who also became the first Shepherd player to play in the Reese’s® Division II All-Star Game, led the WVIAC in scoring and was ranked eighth nationally with a 22.9 points per game average. He also averaged 9.0 rebounds (ranked tied for 31st in NCAA II) and 2.52 steals (ranked 13th in NCAA II).

Moore finished a brilliant career with 2,083 points to rank fifth on the all-time Shepherd scoring list. His 1,034 rebounds rank him fourth, while his 227 steals place him in a tie for second on the Shepherd all-time list.

**Spring sports round-up**

(continued from page 20)

**Men’s Tennis**

The men’s tennis team recorded a 16-11 overall mark with a 5-3 mark in WVIAC play. The Rams posted a 5-2 win over Concord in the WVIAC Tournament quarterfinals before falling to eventual champion Bluefield State in the semifinals. Shepherd advanced to NCAA II regional play for the second consecutive year and dropped a 5-0 decision to West Virginia Wesleyan.

Junior Chris Pratt, of Charleston, earned All-WVIAC honors for the third consecutive year as he posted a 16-7 mark at number one singles and added a 14-12 record at number one doubles. He also gained WVIAC Player of the Week honors. • Chip Ransom

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*During a recent visit in California, Aaron Ryan (l.), assistant athletic director for external affairs, visited with former Ram football players Bill Golden ’59 and Steve Kijula ’58 in Oceanside.*
Development

From the Foundation

First endowed chair in business awarded

The Foundation is pleased to announce the first appointment of the Edward L. Snyder Chair for Business to Dr. Caroline Glackin, assistant professor of business administration. The award was endowed by Foundation President Michael A. Smith ’89 and his brother, Gerald (J.J.) Smith, in memory of their maternal grandfather. The brothers and co-owners of Winchester-based Valley Proteins, Inc., a longtime corporate benefactor to Shepherd University, endowed the fund to strengthen academic excellence and stimulate the growth of Shepherd’s business program.

Dr. Glackin holds an A.B. in economics from Bryn Mawr College, an M.B.A. from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania, and a Ph.D. in urban affairs and public policy from the University of Delaware. She has served as the executive director of the First State Community Loan Fund, as well as the director of the Delaware State University’s Center for Enterprise Development.

Dr. Glackin has co-authored multiple editions of two leading undergraduate texts—Entrepreneurship and Small Business Management and Entrepreneurship: Starting and Operating a Small Business—with Network for Teaching Entrepreneurship (NFTE) founder Steve Mariotti, and is currently studying the entrepreneurship ecosystem in West Virginia with a focus on access to capital. In addition to her research, she also coaches Shepherd students for the West Virginia Statewide Business Plan Competition and works with the local Entrepreneurs’ Café to support economic development in the Eastern Panhandle of West Virginia.

McMurran Society welcomes new members, guests at April dinner

The annual Joseph P. McMurran Society Dinner Reception, hosted by President Suzanne Shipley and the Foundation, was held on Saturday, April 27. Members and their guests, along with Shepherd University faculty, deans, and administrators, enjoyed mingling in the candlelit atrium of Erma Ora Byrd Hall before sitting down to a four-course dinner prepared by Chef Scott Anderson and Shepherd University Catering.

Foundation President Michael A. Smith ’89 welcomed new members Michael M. Athey ’62, Ann Wilson Hummer ’69, Gina M. Miller ’10, and Stephen Skinner into the exclusive organization with a commemorative gift. Also joining the Joseph P. McMurran Society are newest members Larry A. Strite ’60 and Nancy Strite, John P. Wood ’78 and Anne Wood, and Charlene L. Watkins.

To learn more about joining the McMurran Society, contact Monica Lingenfelter at 304-876-5397 or mlingen@shepherd.edu.

Recent Shepherd grad Daniel Bascom, who served as a student ambassador at the event, poses with McMurran Society member Mary Ann Rogers ’60 (far l.) and her guests, Roxena K. Frye ’72 and Katy Marie Frye ’12.

Members of the Joseph P. McMurran Society gather on the steps of Erma Ora Byrd Hall as part of the organization’s annual dinner reception in April.
Scarborough Gala thanks its sponsors

The 12th annual Scarborough Society Gala took place on Friday, August 9, with a theme that captured the essence of the Old South as it brought to life Gone With the Wind, Margaret Mitchell’s epic novel of love and loss during the Civil War.

The popular annual event was once again held at the picturesque Bavarian Inn in Shepherdstown. Presenting sponsors for the event were BB&T Wealth Management, Jefferson Security Bank, and Valley Proteins, Inc. Millers Electric Company, Inc. sponsored the band, Souled Out. Program sponsors included JOHN WOLFE ’88, Capital Fiduciary Advisors, and JERRY WILLIAMS ’71, State Farm Insurance. Other theme sponsors included Bowles Rice Attorneys at Law; Skinner Law Firm; Smith Elliott Kearns & Co., LLC; CoxHollidaPrice, LLP; and Thompson Gas. Much appreciation goes to United Bank for making a special donation to support this year’s affair. The Foundation warmly acknowledges these sponsors, without whom this event, enjoyed by alumni and community members alike, would not be possible.

Senior class gift benefits student art scholarship

Sections of a 54-panel mural that served as a collaborative effort by Shepherd students in drawing classes taught by David Modler and Karen Gergely during the 2013 spring semester will be purchased by the 2013 senior class. The mural took on a life of its own after other art students expressed interest in it, leading to the forum being opened to anyone who wanted to contribute. The resulting effort, according to Modler, was the work of more than 75 Shepherd art students.

The 2013 senior class will purchase several panels of the project, which were inspired by the art of the En Masse group of Montreal, Quebec, Canada. Originally exhibited in the University Bookstore in March as part of the Visual Literacy Student Art Show, the mural will be permanently installed for display on campus. All the money from its sale will be donated to the Sara Beth Chroussis Fund, which benefits students in the Department of Contemporary Art and Theater, making it a gift that truly keeps on giving.

Congratulations to our 2013 grads and thank you for your generosity.

Foundation scholar publishes children’s book

Foundation scholar TERE S DUNHAM CAVANARO ’03 can add the role of published author to her résumé, having published a children’s picture book titled Sweet Sallie’s Squirrel Scarf Factory, illustrated by her husband Larry and available on Amazon and www.publishamerica.net.

In addition to receiving the Elizabeth Thornburg Brown Scholarship and Thomas M. and Sherry E. Lurry Scholarship while at Shepherd, Teresa was also named a McMurran Scholar, Shepherd’s highest academic honor. After graduating with a degree in English, she spent a decade working as a journalist and copywriter, winning several Virginia Press Awards for her writing.

Teresa has returned to Shepherd to earn her M.A.T. in English and plans to pursue a career teaching English at the secondary education level. “As an English teacher, I will be able to make a great impact on many young people and help improve their writing skills,” she said. “With my background, I think I can motivate students and encourage them to write well.”
From the Foundation

Scarborough Society Art and Lecture Series announced

The Scarborough Society Art and Lecture Series is gearing up for another exciting season with a wide range of topics and speakers. All events, which are free and open to the public, will take place in the Scarborough Library Reading Room with a reception to follow.

The Shepherd University Art Department will present its annual Faculty Art Show from September 7-21, with an opening night reception on Monday, September 16 from 4-6 p.m.

Local Civil War author and historian Bob O’Connor will discuss The Return of Catesby, the tale of a former slave who gains his freedom and begins encouraging and teaching newly freed slaves in a post-Civil War society, on Wednesday, October 16 at 7 p.m.

Hedgesville resident and award-winning author Roger Engle will present his debut book, Stories from a Small Town, on Wednesday, March 5, 2014 at 7 p.m.

On Wednesday, April 2, 2014, local author Lyn Widmyer will discuss her humorous memoir, Chasing Cows: I’m Not in the Suburbs Anymore, and discuss how the role of farm wives has changed over the decades. The presentation will begin at 7 p.m.

For more information about these events, please visit the Foundation’s website at www.shepherd.edu/fndtnweb/.

Scarborough Society tours National Constitution Center

In April, the Scarborough Society’s annual spring bus excursion traveled to Philadelphia to visit the National Constitution Center. The outing featured the center’s main exhibit titled The Story of We the People and a theatrical performance of “Freedom Rising.” Attendees delighted in posing with life-size bronze statues of the Founding Fathers in Signers’ Hall. Dr. Ray Smock of Shepherd University’s Robert C. Byrd Center for Legislative Studies, who led the research used to create the exhibit, treated guests to an insiders’ talk about the authenticity of the 42 statues depicted, effectively bringing to life the final day of the Constitutional Convention in the Assembly Room of the Pennsylvania State House, now known as Independence Hall.

Members of the Scarborough Society’s annual bus trip enjoyed having their photos taken among the 42 life-size bronze statues depicting the Founding Fathers, including George Washington, Benjamin Franklin, James Madison, and Alexander Hamilton, in the Signers’ Hall exhibit.
Fall 2013 27

Jim Brown ’59 first spotted Sharon Devol from across the Shepherd cafeteria at the beginning of his senior year. “Who is that?” he asked, nudging his friend Bunny Leonard ’59. “I think I’d like to meet her.”

“Her?” said Bunny, who just happened to be dating Sharon’s roommate at the time. “Oh, I can definitely introduce you to her!”

Only six months later, following a whirlwind courtship, Jim and Sharon Devol Brown ’70 were married and preparing to move to Hancock, Maryland, where they would begin their careers teaching physical education and coaching sports at Hancock High School. They also owned and operated a canoe business at Little Orleans, Maryland. And they did all of this while Jim served as camp director for Camp Straus, owned at the time by the Baltimore Area Boy Scouts of America.

Born in Philadelphia to a military family, Sharon had moved with them to the Far East after graduating from George Washington High School in Alexandria, Virginia. There she had lived for a year, taking extension courses through the University of Maryland, before returning stateside to attend Shepherd—sight unseen—at the recommendation of a friend.

Sharon informed her parents of her impromptu marriage via letter, writing, “Don’t be sad because this will be the best thing I ever did. And I promise you that I will finish my college education—it’s just a matter of time.” When the Devols finally met their new son-in-law the following fall, they had become grandparents; Jim was first introduced to his in-laws as they held the couple’s eldest son, James.

“We started together at Shepherd,” said Sharon, who was poised to serve as a princess in the 1959 Apple Blossom Festival grand feature parade, but used the money her parents sent for a gown to purchase the couple’s wedding rings. “Shepherd has been good to us. It gave us our careers, our stability, our sons, and our grandchildren. It made things happen in our lives that would never have happened otherwise.”

It was such self-reflection that prompted the couple, now married 54 years, to establish the JAMES AND SHARON DEVOL BROWN SCHOLARSHIP through the Shepherd University Foundation. Designated for student athletes majoring in education, with a preference for those who play basketball, the gift brings the couple full circle back to their roots.

“Oh our life started here together and we felt it was time to put some energy into this program,” they said.

The Browns had already spent decades enriching young lives. When the couple moved to Williamsport, Maryland, after seven years in Hancock, Jim took a job teaching physical education at North Hagerstown High School, where he also coached football and basketball, winning the state basketball championship in 1972. He was also honored as Young Educator of the Year in the 1960s.

Jim went on to develop a model program for the President’s Council for Fitness before taking on the roles of head basketball coach, athletic director, and administrator of the Athletic Recreation Community Center (ARCC) at Hagerstown Community College, after raising private gifts and acquiring public funds for its construction. He spent the last 23 years of his career at HCC, retiring with a total basketball career record of 747 wins.

Sharon, meanwhile, returned to Shepherd after delaying her degree, driving more than 100 miles round-trip each day while raising the couple’s two sons, James and Barry. She went on to enjoy a fulfilling 34-year career with Washington County Public Schools in Maryland, teaching grades 3 through 12.

Following retirement, the Browns shifted their focus to further philanthropic endeavors, with Jim leading the effort to raise funds for the stadium at North Hagerstown High School. The two also worked together with the Mason Dixon Council to raise money for the Sinoquipe Scout Reservation in Fort Littleton, Pennsylvania, as the Boy Scouts of America organization has long held a place in their hearts.

As they turned their attention back to their alma mater, however, the couple waxed nostalgic about what made Shepherd so special to them, with a special emphasis on its faculty. Sara Cree and William “Pappy” Thacher were among the professors they mentioned as role models, as was James Hafer, who hired Sharon as his student secretary following her marriage. They also spoke fondly of Veta Smith, a “wonderful and vivacious English teacher,” according to Sharon. Smith refused to let Jim drop her class when he was struggling in it, instead offering to tutor him one-on-one.

“There were some special faculty members [at Shepherd] who really got me through,” Jim noted.

It was this same spirit of devotion and tenacity that led the couple to dedicate their lives to helping young people, from teaching and coaching basketball to their involvement with the Boy Scouts to the various activities in which they participate with their five grandchildren. And now, with their endowed gift to Shepherd University, they feel like they’ve come home.

“Our life has been very blessed,” Sharon said. “The circles just keep coming around and around.”

If you would like to bring your positive experiences with Shepherd University full circle by endowing a fund that will leave a lasting legacy, please contact the Shepherd University Foundation at P.O. Box 5000, Shepherdstown, WV 25443, 304-876-5397, or e-mail Monica Lingenfelter at mlingenf@shepherd.edu.

Kristin Alexander
Your gift makes a difference

The Shepherd University Foundation assists Shepherd students through numerous scholarship awards made possible through the generosity of private gifts, large and small. We vow to serve as good stewards of these gifts so that they may have a positive impact on the lives of as many deserving students as possible. To that end, six current and former Foundation scholars have graciously agreed to share how the scholarship awards they have received have influenced their lives and educations. Have you considered the difference your private gift might make in the life of a deserving Shepherd student?

Rachel L. Johnson ’12
Robert and Jean Melvin Rissler Memorial Scholarship
As a student at Shepherd, Rachel Johnson regularly made the Dean’s List and held a cumulative GPA of 3.41. An active member of the Honors Program, the communications major also received the Robert and Jean Melvin Rissler Scholarship for the entirety of her four years on campus, which paid for her room and board and allowed her to live in Honors housing. “[This scholarship] supported me financially and made it possible for me to live on campus and experience college life,” she said. “[It] created a healthy environment for me to learn and grow.” After graduation, Rachel obtained an internship with O’Sullivan Films in Winchester, Virginia, and now serves as the company’s marketing services coordinator, utilizing her Shepherd degree in a job that she truly loves.

Morgan Johnson
Ralph and Margaret Burkhart Legacy Scholarship
A biology major from Elkins, Morgan Johnson maintains a 4.0 GPA, is actively involved in Shepherd’s Honors program, and was one of only 20 students awarded a West Virginia Idea Network of Biomedical Research Excellence internship at WVU during the summer. But her achievements are not limited to the classroom. The senior has also been a member of the women’s basketball team for three years, during which time she has been recognized as a 2011 Female Athlete Scholar by the West Virginia Intercollegiate Athletic Conference and was awarded the Division II Athletic Directors Academic Achievement Award in 2012. A recipient of the Ralph and Margaret Burkhart Scholarship, she gratefully acknowledges the difference the award has made in her college education. “This scholarship has allowed me to focus on my academics, as well as athletics, and worry less about paying for school,” said Morgan, who is also involved in several volunteer activities, including Day of Caring. After graduation, she plans to continue her education by attending medical school and earning her M.D. and her Ph.D., specializing in either intervention radiology or neurobiology.

Sara Virginia Lea Harmison ’13
James Keith Leverett Job Corps Scholarship
Sara Harmison is candid about her academic struggles during her early college years. Sara, who resides in Martinsburg, admits to questioning her decision to attend college full-time while working two jobs, leading her to ultimately withdraw from school. At the encouragement of her mother, Sara enrolled in the Harpers Ferry Job Corps Civilian Conservation Center. Under the mentorship of former academic manager, Dr. James K. Leverett ’96, who now oversees the center’s counseling department, Sara earned her business certificate in the office automation trade and began working in the records office of the Job Corps Center. She later returned to Shepherd to complete her degree and became the first recipient of the James Keith Leverett Scholarship. A full seven years after she initially enrolled at Shepherd, Sara proudly graduated with her bachelor of science in social work. Acknowledging Dr. Leverett’s notable influence in this milestone achievement, she said, “Had I not gotten the scholarship, I don’t think I would have continued with my education. The fact that someone believed in me enough to put money on me was huge incentive to succeed.”

Rachel Johnson ’12

Morgan Johnson

Sara Virginia Lea Harmison ’13

Dr. James K. Leverett ’96 and Sara Harmison ’13
Christopher Korcsamo ’13
E. William Johnson Memorial Scholarship
John Glen Phillips Memorial Economics Scholarship
T. Edward Stotler Memorial Scholarship

Chris Korcsamo, of Kearneysville, suffers from a rare and unique medical disorder that could have prohibited him from living a full and independent life or even resulted in death. And yet, the business and economics double major recently graduated from Shepherd University with honors and a 3.97 GPA, an achievement he attributes in large part to the privately funded scholarships he received as a student. “My condition doesn’t qualify as a disability, nor are there any scholarships designated specifically for it,” he says, noting that the condition can also be expensive to monitor. “These scholarships literally made my college education possible. They allowed me to pursue my goals.” Chris is now seeking a full-time job in the business field and hopes to return to Shepherd at some point for post-graduate work. He also maintains an advisory role with Ratio Christi, a Christian debate organization that he founded while he was an undergraduate at Shepherd University.

Ashley Laspina-Carriger ’13
Vera Malton Scholarship

Ashley Laspina-Carriger and his sister, Ashley, credit their close-knit family—especially their mother—with instilling in them a mutual love of learning, strong work ethic, and drive to succeed. These values paid off for the Charles Town siblings, who both enrolled at Shepherd and went on to be designated as McMurran Scholars, Shepherd’s highest academic honor.

Following his graduation in 2012, Ryan returned to Shepherd to pursue his master of business administration degree and was awarded the McMurran Scholars Association Scholarship, designated for McMurran Scholars working on their post-graduate degrees. “The MSA scholarship helped me focus more on my education and less on the stress of worrying about how to pay for multiple graduate classes at once,” he said. “I’ve also joined the McMurran Scholars Association, attend meetings, and volunteer with association activities. So, receiving the scholarship not only helped me financially, it also allowed me to become even more involved on campus.” Rounding out his active schedule, Ryan is employed as a contractor at the Coast Guard and serves as an academic advisor at Shepherd.

Ashley enrolled at Shepherd in 2009 as a communication and new media major and became involved with Phi Kappa Phi and the Psychology Honors Society, Psi Chi. In 2012, she was awarded the Vera Malton Scholarship, which she said assisted her with the purchase of books and other school-related expenses.

“Because of this scholarship, I was able to focus on my education and gain valuable experience through an unpaid internship and co-op with local business while working part-time,” she explained. “Without these funds, I would have had to work full-time, which would have limited my ability to pursue these other academic opportunities.” Ashley graduated summa cum laude in May 2013 and enrolled in Shepherd’s M.B.A. program in the summer.

Ryan and Ashley both attribute their academic successes to their parents’ guidance and support, acknowledging that their scholarships have financially aided their entire family. “Our mom and dad are extremely proud of our accomplishments,” said Ryan.

Ryan Laspina-Carriger ’12
McMurran Scholars Association Scholarship

Ashley Laspina-Carriger ’13
Vera Malton Scholarship

Ashley Laspina-Carriger and Ryan Laspina-Carriger ’12
Almost since its inception, Shepherd University has been influenced and molded by women. Frustrated by legislative red tape, prominent community member Kate Reynolds led a fundraising movement in Shepherdstown in the late 1880s to help construct a new building on campus that would house an auditorium and stage. In 1929 that building, Reynolds Hall, was renamed in her honor. Others such as Dr. Sara Cree, Mabel Gardiner, Ella Mae Turner, Florence Shaw, Dr. Vera Malton, Dr. Ruth Scarborough, and most recently, Dr. Suzanne Shipley have all left very distinguished and lasting marks as well.

In October 2012, a core group of seven alumnae and friends met with Shepherd University Foundation staff to create the Women for Shepherd University initiative. This initiative would support, foster, and promote the advancement of women and women’s issues within the university, the community, and in their own lives. By offering programs in areas such as Money Matters for Wise Women, Women and Wellness, Women Embracing Change, and Connecting Through Social Media, the Women for Shepherd University would present opportunities to learn about solutions for life issues in a comfortable and fun environment.

"Shepherd’s history has been shaped by powerful women—from academic leaders like Ruth Scarborough and Sara Cree to the impressive body of alumnae we are proud to claim. Women for Shepherd University captures and builds upon this great resource of energy, creativity, and dedication to the alma mater that adds meaning to our lives. Together, Shepherd’s women will help to fashion a remarkable future for a great university!"

President Suzanne Shipley

On April 13, an event was held at Shepherd’s Wellness Center. Fifty alumnae, friends, and faculty members gathered together for a Women and Wellness workshop, which offered attendees the choice of three 40-minute sessions along five tracks. The participants, who came from Virginia, West Virginia, and Maryland, bonded over the diverse explorations of wellness while munching on homemade granola bars and sipping fruit-infused water. “The atmosphere was so comfortable and electric,” said presenter and new planning committee member Diana Gore. Betty Lowe ’52, charter planning committee member, said, “I felt the day was most rewarding and encouraging for our group. Everyone seemed to enjoy it.”

Hoping to continue the momentum from its successful start, the Women for Shepherd University group has planned a full schedule of events for the 2013-14 calendar year, including two featured events: Center for Contemporary Arts Tour and Inspired Philanthropy presentation on Thursday, October 17 and Embracing Change with Grace and Style Panel, High Tea, and Fashion Show on Sunday, April 13, 2014.
Martinsburg Center officially opens July 25

Shepherd’s new Martinsburg Center at 261 Aikens Center was officially opened during a ribbon-cutting ceremony featuring (l. to r.) Dr. Scott Beard, associate vice president for academic affairs; James Vigil, associate vice president for business decision support; President Suzanne Shipley; Chancellor Paul Hill, West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission; and Jim Klein, director of the Martinsburg Center.
The ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Center for Contemporary Arts Phase II was held April 18. Participants included (l. to r.) Peggy McKowen, James McNeel, Patrick Wallace, Dow Benedict, Jenny Allen, Stanley Marinoff, Gat Caperton, President Suzanne Shipley, Rhonda Smith, Sonja Evanisko, Rick Bruner, Dan Yanna, and Michael Gehr.