

## 2020 IMPACT REPORT



EXCELLENCE   INNOVATION   OPPORTUNITY  
TRAINING THE NEXT GENERATION OF LEADERS AND MODEL CITIZENS





*Graduate Dean Richard Stevens (front) takes a selfie with grad students.*

## School of Graduate Studies

*Shepherd University has a vibrant graduate culture that complements the primary mission for educating undergraduate students*

Graduate programs at Shepherd have been around for merely 15 years compared to the almost 150 years of strong undergraduate education. The current programs provide a wide range of choices to meet local and regional needs of the community and at the same time service communities nationally should a student wish to use the degree elsewhere. Current programs include a Master of Arts in Teaching degree, Master of Arts degrees in curriculum and instruction, college student development and administration, and Appalachian studies, a Master of Science degree in data analytics and information systems, an M.B.A., and a Doctor of Nursing Practice. The University also offers non-degree graduate certificates in a variety of areas. Marketing for these programs is essential for

potential students to understand the opportunities that are available at Shepherd University. Through the President's Club, the School of Graduate and Professional Studies was able to expand its digital presence through Facebook and Google with more than 750,000 impressions (visits to the school's web pages) and reaching more than 220,000 people on Facebook through this media marketing. As the School of Graduate and Professional Studies continues to increase its online presence through coursework and future online degrees, the school's digital presence will continue to be an important aspect of marketing the strong programs Shepherd University offers.



# Contemporary Theater Studies Program Is Poised for Growth

Shepherd University's President's Club invested in the future of the Contemporary Theater Studies Program this year, engaging current students in additional educational enterprises and enabling them to be ambassadors for theater recruitment and program growth. Shepherd University theater students joined KB Saine, the theater program's new director, in Norfolk, Virginia, in fall 2019 for three days at the Virginia Theater Association Conference. While there, students attended workshops on Theater for Social Justice, LGBTQIA+ Representation On and Off Stage, Musical Theater Dance Training, Intimacy Direction, and Playwriting. One student joined Saine in auditioning more than 200 high school students interested in studying theater at the collegiate level. This spring, Shepherd University theater students attended the Virginia Thespians Conference, where they represented the university and spoke with current West Virginia high school theater artists about the Contemporary Theater Studies program at Shepherd. At both events, students showcased their talents in front of a Shepherd University/Department of Contemporary Art and Theater "Create Yourself Here" step-and-repeat banner—created especially for promoting Shepherd University's visibility at major public theater



Theater majors Isaiah Hall and Jason Whittaker

events. Prospective Shepherd University theater students were treated to promotional swag, increasing the university's footprint in the region. Plans for the 2020-2021 year include a return to these two conferences, in addition to the West Virginia Thespians (which was canceled this year as a result of the COVID-19 virus) and the Southeastern Theater Conference.

# Boston Piano Purchase for the School of Music

Shepherd University School of Music's mission is to inspire student growth creatively, artistically, and professionally by providing a climate conducive to the development of the comprehensive musician. This is achieved through a highly personalized and student-centered approach for the development of a unified core of music experience. Shepherd University aspires to provide its students with the finest pianos in the industry made by Steinway and Sons. All students will benefit from this effort as every practice room, teaching studio, and performance space will contain a Steinway and Sons piano. To advance the School of Music, the President's Club has donated funding for a Boston UHP-126 Performance Edition piano.

Achieving the All-Steinway School designation will benefit aspiring students, the reputation of the School of Music, and the community as a whole. As each Steinway piano is expected to be used for 60 to 100 years, a gift of a Steinway piano is a legacy of excellence—a long-lasting gift that benefits thousands for generations to come. An All-Steinway School is an investment in our students as it symbolizes the highest levels of excellence and commitment to quality.

For more than 160 years Steinway and Sons has been dedicated to making the finest pianos in the world. Their pioneering handcrafted methods are still employed today to ensure uncompromising standards of quality, in turn ensuring that the Steinway piano remains the peerless instrument of uncompromising expression.

To earn the All-Steinway School designation, 90 percent of the pianos must be Steinway-made. Several years ago, music donors responded to a critical need for quality performance instruments and generously funded the acquisition of two Fazioli grand pianos. One will remain integrated into our fleet of new pianos, but the other has reached a state

where reconditioning is impractical. Due to high usage by students, they played it to death! The investment in 28 new Steinway and Sons pianos will assure the entire area arts community, along with faculty, students, and parents, that those studying and performing music on any level—from music appreciation classes to piano majors—will have access to the finest piano instruments in the world. The purchase of the piano by the President's Club brings us one step closer to providing Shepherd students and the community with quality instruments to pursue their passions and enrich our lives through the arts.





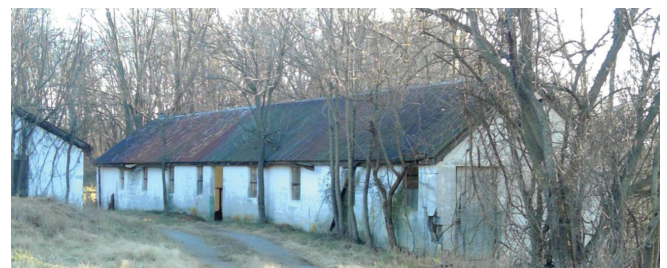


## Tabler Farm: Shepherd University Agricultural Innovation Center

The President's Club Funding has been the major impetus that has allowed renovation of an 18' x 100' milk parlor building for use as an Aquaponics Laboratory. It has been a long process, but the outcome is exciting and the aquaponics facility will provide yearlong growing season training in this research facility at Shepherd University.

The old milk parlor building was not in good shape and the bulk of the building's renovation was supported by President's Club funding. These funds leveraged other funds to assist with the project, including funds from the Department of Environmental Studies, a Women Investing in Shepherd (WISH) grant, and a Ranson, West Virginia, Home Depot grant. This exciting opportunity was also made possible with the initial seed monies from the USDA-NRCS grant.

The building now has doors and a roof that does not leak. Broken walls were stabilized, and the building is insulated and covered with Hardi Panel. Windows were provided by the Ranson Home Depot funds with installation by students from the Harpers Ferry Job Corps Civilian Conservation Center. Outlets and lights were installed with



*Tabler Farm old milk parlor exterior before renovation*

all electrical labor, (after initial hookup to the main power line), donated by students from the James Rumsey Technical Institute's electrician class, headed by master electrician John Gurdish. Painting of the interior was completed by Shepherd's Environmental Science faculty and students, and we gratefully acknowledge help from students at the Shepherd University Day of Service.





*Tabler Farm old milk parlor interior before renovation*



*Raising of the rafters*



*Installation of the insulation outside*



*The exterior of the building is much improved!*

Currently, construction of an aquaponics system is underway. Shepherd has obtained two donated tanks (1,500 gallons each), settlers, pumps, and biofilters from the Freshwater Institute, USDA Cool and Cold Aquaculture Center, USGS, and the West Virginia

Department of Natural Resources. Construction of the Aquaponics Laboratory would not have been possible without the assistance from the President's Club and the ground work it provided on the building improvements.



*Progress on one of the two deep-water aquaculture growing beds. Behind the two growing beds are the tanks; not seen are the sediment filters, biofilters, and oxidation tank. In the front bottom of the picture is the platform for the vertical growing system.*





## The Andean Condor Genome Project

---

Human impacts on natural habitats have continued to intensify, resulting in accelerating biodiversity loss throughout the globe and across the taxonomic groups. These impacts have been especially noticeable in large-bodied species. With a wing-span of 10 feet, the highly endangered Andean condor is one of the largest flying species. This species once ranged along the Andes from Venezuela to the southern tip of South America; however, condors disappeared from Venezuela in the last century, and the northern populations of Ecuador and Colombia are on the brink of extinction.

In the 1990s, the Andean Condor Conservation Program (PCCA: Programa Conservación Cóndor Andino) was founded in Argentina. The PCCA started by developing artificial incubation programs and techniques for hand rearing birds without human contact, and worked to rescue and rehabilitate wild condors. The PCCA was considering reintroduction plans that would move southern-bred condors to the north, and Dr. Sher Hendrickson, associate professor of biology, joined the effort to determine whether the populations in the north and south were genetically different, possibly as a result

of adaptation to the different climatic regimes in the northern and southern Andes. Throughout the condors' range, habitat varies from the harsh, wet island-like Andean páramos north of Peru, to the more contiguous dry Andean puna and coasts of the south. Although they found that genetic variability was low throughout the range, the initial studies were limited to a few genes and could not answer some of the more difficult questions regarding adaptation in the wild, or how to best manage genetic diversity in the reintroduction efforts for the condor or other large-bodied species.

With recent support from the President's Club and other sources, Dr. Hendrickson and collaborators at the PCCA and the San Diego Zoo have initiated the Andean Condor Genome Project. Despite decades of captive breeding and reintroduction programs, very few follow-up studies have been done to determine how these efforts have augmented genetics in wild populations. This project will be one of the first to address important questions of conservation genetics of highly endangered species using cutting edge genomics technology.



# Summer Start Program to Begin in July 2020

---

Summer Start is a new month-long summer bridge program for incoming Shepherd University students to be offered this July (2020). Summer Start allows first-year students to acclimate to college life and navigate the expectations and wide array of services available to them weeks before the fall semester officially begins. Participants complete up to seven credit hours of customizable coursework, attend academic-focused workshops, receive supplemental tutoring, and make valuable faculty and peer connections.

Students today are more eager than ever for clear pathways to degree completion. Early start opportunities appeal to the modern day student as a chance to begin their college careers with a high degree of support and outcome advantages. All Summer Start course offerings meet core curriculum requirements and include financial literacy, fitness and wellness, a first-year seminar, writing and

rhetoric, and mathematics. These courses are accelerated while still allowing for individualized attention and the support from faculty and peer tutors in an encouraging environment. The program is designed to include a residential component as well as cultural activities, however, this summer, due to Covid-19, all coursework and programmatic support will take place online.

Summer Start is more than an introduction to Shepherd University and college life—it is an integration. Summer Start is a wonderful opportunity for students to prepare for academic and social success in their first year of college and beyond with credits, confidence, and transferrable skills; many aspects of this experience are made uniquely possible through the financial support of members of the Shepherd University President's Club. For more information, visit [www.shepherd.edu/summer-start](http://www.shepherd.edu/summer-start).







## The Power of Storytelling Comes to Local Public Schools

---

Shepherd University's Center for Appalachian Studies and Communities' Speak Story Series is a community-based storytelling organization that presents internationally recognized storytellers in monthly concerts for the public. The President's Club partnered with Speak and the Center to extend the program's storytelling outreach to local schools during the seventh and eighth Speak seasons, during the 2019-20 academic year. The President's Club enabled West Virginia Poet Laureate Marc Harshman to visit 200 students at Washington High School on September 25, 2019 and to workshop with 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders at the Wright Denny Intermediate School on September 26. Harshman then traveled to Moorefield to engage with local high school students in Hardy County and participate in the Hardy County Heritage week September 27-28, 2019. As part of the regular Speak Storytelling season, Irish storyteller Clare Murphy visited

Shepherdstown Elementary School on September 17, and Choctaw storyteller Tim Tingle visited Ranson Elementary on October 8, while two-time GRAMMY winner Bill Harley visited Morgan Academy on November 13. Master improviser Ed Stivender was at Shepherdstown Middle School in January 2020, while award-winning African-American teller Charlotte Blake Alston visited Martinsburg North Middle School on March 9. Books and recordings by 2020 Appalachian Heritage Tellers-in-Residence, Sparky and Rhonda Rucker, keepers of African-American and civil rights musical and story traditions, will be distributed to school libraries in Jefferson, Berkeley, and Morgan counties in lieu of canceled events in the schools in April. Storytelling outreach continues throughout the rest of the 2020 season, enriching the lives of local school children and giving them insight and understanding into the West Virginia and Appalachian heritage.

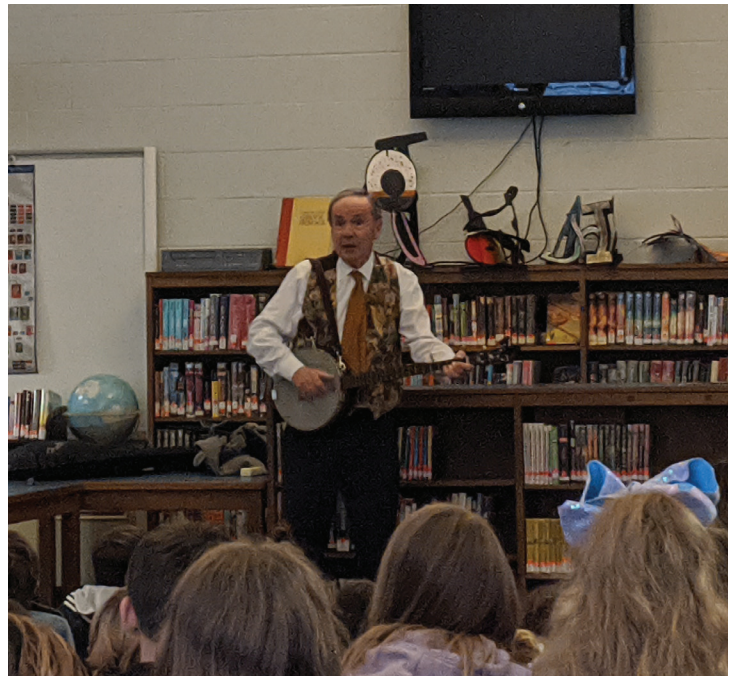




*Clare Murphy performs at Shepherdstown Elementary School*



*Ed Stivender performs at Shepherdstown Middle School*







## President's Club, Contemporary American Theater Festival, and the Rural Arts Collaborative Make Theater Experiences Possible for Berkeley Springs High School Students

Berkeley Springs High School (BSHS) lost their beloved theater teacher of many years due to budget cuts. Faced with the prospect of limited theater opportunities provided by one of their English teachers, Amy Taylor, a large number of students were forced to find alternative arts opportunities. Keep in mind that BSHS has more students participating in afterschool arts activities than for football and other sports.

That is until a partnership between Shepherd University, the Contemporary American Theater Festival (CATF), and the Rural Arts Collaborative (RAC) funded through the Fayette County Cultural Trust (Connellsville, Pennsylvania), and the Charles Worthington Benedum Foundation out of Pittsburgh, came to the rescue.

While visiting the Shepherd University campus during a summer CATF event, leadership from both the RAC program and the Benedum Foundation learned of Berkeley Springs' need for arts, and particularly theater, funding. Without hesitation, President Mary J.C. Hendrix contributed funding to the initiative from the President's Club, and a collaboration was born that has already provided amazing activities for these local students—also giving them a chance to experience art and theater on the Shepherd University campus.

Sixty-five students from BSHS visited Shepherd University in October 2019 to see a special matinee of the Department of Contemporary Art and Theater's production of *Orlando*. The students enjoyed a quick lunch and then had a talk-back with the Shepherd University students participating in the production. These same 65 students returned to the campus in February 2020 for a matinee of the Shepherd University's School of Music's concert production of the

musical comedy *25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*. In addition to these visits to campus, the BSHS students have benefitted from the President's Club support in other ways.

Shepherd University instructor and artist Adam Booth gave a story-telling performance at the high school and is currently planning a series of workshops with the students for next semester on character development and storytelling. CATF playwright D.W. Gregory (*Memoirs of a Forgotten Man*, 2018 Season World Premiere production), also joined the students for artist workshops at the high school. Another amazing event sponsored by this collaboration provided these same 65 students with a trip in January to Washington, D.C., and a visit to the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. The students toured the Kennedy Center and then enjoyed a performance of the national Broadway tour of *My Fair Lady* in the Opera House.

This collaboration (and funding) will provide more opportunities for the BSHS students during the upcoming 2020-2021 school year. Until then, the BSHS students already feel so grateful about the programming provided to them through Shepherd University. One BSHS student said after seeing the *25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* that "this was the best day of my life."

Thanks to the support of the Shepherd University President's Club, and the university's commitment to this collaboration, many of these students may find themselves on campus next year as Shepherd University students welcoming their former BSHS classmates to campus for more art experiences!



Paul '70 and Judith '70 Armstrong  
Martin and Elise Baach  
Marcia Brand and Mark Outhier  
Gat and Susan Caperton  
Joseph P. Catlett '80  
Rear Admiral Jay Cohen  
John '61 and Pat '60 Egle  
Alan Gibson and R. Scott Beard  
Mary J.C. Hendrix '74 and Charles Craft  
Lily Richie Hill  
Michael W. Hudson '72  
Judith and Stanley '56 Ikenberry  
Sherri and Chris Janelle  
Christian '74 and Deborah '74 Koerner  
Monica and William Lingenfelter  
Charles D.'94 and Anke Linton  
Sara '67 and Allen '67 Lueck  
Paul T. McDermott '83  
Robert and Tia McMillan  
D. Scott '80 and Linda '81 Roach

Stanley W. Rote '65  
Alan Schriesheim  
Robert B. Seem '04  
Thomas and Rebecca Segar  
Norma J. Siler '54  
Julie and Joseph '80 Siler  
Austin '76 and Carmen Slater  
Michael '89 and Wendy Smith  
Lois and Peter Spreen  
Amanda E. Steiner '98  
Mark and Barbara Stern  
John '81 and Deborah Thayer  
Susan Thorniley '70  
Glenn Twigg, Jr. '73  
Sylvia Wehr  
Lisa and Paul Welch  
Karl L. Wolf '70  
William and Patricia '77 Wright  
Alfred '89 and Laura Young



Thank You to the  
2019-20 President's Club Members  
for Making These Initiatives Possible.  
Your Investment in Shepherd University  
Makes a Difference!



# Shepherd

UNIVERSITY

P.O. Box 5000  
Shepherdstown, WV 25443  
304-876-5397 • [www.shepherduniversityfoundation.org](http://www.shepherduniversityfoundation.org)