



SHEPHERD UNIVERSITY
FOUNDATION
President's Club

2026 IMPACT REPORT



President Hendrix with the Student Government Association: Shepherd University's Leaders of Tomorrow

EXCELLENCE • INNOVATION • OPPORTUNITY
Training the Next Generation of Leaders and Model Citizens

Thank you to the 2025-2026 President's Club members for making these initiatives possible. Your investment in Shepherd University makes a difference!

Howard '77 & Sumiko Allen
Paul '70 & Judith Harris '70 Armstrong
Scott & Rebecca Barton
William Blair & Susan Mentzer-Blair '72
Marcia Brand & Mark Outhier
Gat & Susan Caperton
Joseph P. Catlett '80
Daniel Clarke
Jay & Nancy Cohen
John '64 & Joyce Pulley '64 Deputy
Jack & Jennifer DeRochi
David '08 & Danielle Cosenza '10 Deuell
John '61 & Pat Moler '60 Egle
Scot Faulkner
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Susan Clohan '70 & Bruce Hampton
Kelly Hart & Wendy Keller
Mary J.C. Hendrix '74 & Charles Craft
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Matthew '96 & Laura Shevock '98 Knott
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James '68 & Mary '70 Staley
Amanda Steiner '98
Mark & Barbara Stern
Glenn Twigg, Jr. '73
Karl L. Wolf '70
Alfred L. Young, Jr. '89



**Members as of June 1, 2026*

How to join the President's Club

Since its inception in 2015, the President's Club leadership donors have been instrumental in providing the resources necessary to advance the strategic priorities of Shepherd University. This philanthropic support has allowed Dr. Mary J.C. Hendrix to respond quickly to emerging opportunities and to develop new areas of excellence.

Members of the President's Club, through annual unrestricted gifts of \$1,000 or more, ensure the future of Shepherd University. Leadership giving demonstrates a remarkable level of commitment to Shepherd University and stands as a powerful endorsement of our educational mission.

To add your name to the list of President's Club donors, contact Dr. Kelly Hart, Shepherd University Vice President for Development and Annual Giving, at (304) 876-5311 or KLHART@shepherd.edu.



LETTER FROM *the President*

Dear Friends of Shepherd University,

It is my distinct pleasure to share with you the 2025-2026 President's Club Impact Report and to extend my deepest gratitude for your continued generosity and commitment to Shepherd University. Your support strengthens every aspect of our campus and directly enhances the student experience in meaningful and lasting ways.

This year, the President's Club funding helped advance many important University priorities. Your gifts supported the Shepherd University Common Reading Program, fostering shared dialogue and intellectual engagement among our students and faculty. In the library, new study pods created flexible, collaborative learning spaces that accommodate the evolving needs of today's students.

Your generosity also helped us celebrate and connect with our broader Shepherd community. Support for the Shepherd University Appreciation Event at the Shepherdstown Opera House provided an opportunity to recognize and thank those who champion the University's mission. In addition, funding for a fall magazine advertisement highlighting the Education Program helped us share Shepherd's story and expand awareness of our academic excellence.

In the realm of athletics and wellness, the President's Club support enabled the purchase of a timing system and scoreboard computer for the Wellness Center—an important enhancement that strengthens both competition and training environments for our student-athletes.

We were also proud to serve as the Presenting Sponsor of the Inspiring Excellence Fundraiser Dinner, which raised critical support for women's athletic scholarships. This event reflects our shared commitment to expanding opportunity, elevating women's athletics, and investing in the next generation of leaders.

Each of these initiatives reflects the power of collective generosity. The President's Club continues to serve as a vital bridge between philanthropic vision and real, tangible impact across campus. On behalf of Shepherd University, thank you for your unwavering commitment to our students, our faculty, and our future.

With heartfelt gratitude,

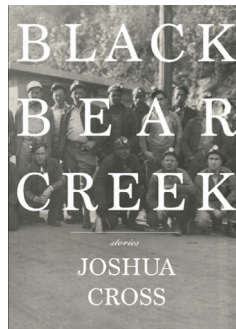
Mary J.C. Hendrix

Mary J.C. Hendrix, Ph.D.
President



President's Club Support Brings Alumni Author Back to Inspire Students

President's Club support helped make possible one of Shepherd University's most meaningful academic experiences during the 2025-2026 academic year: the campus visit of acclaimed author and Shepherd alumnus Joshua Cross ('03), whose short story collection *Black Bear Creek: Stories* was selected as the University's Common Reading Program book.



in the Frank Arts Center attended by more than 125 students, classroom visits with creative writing and literature courses, and a special discussion session for first-year composition students. In total, 206 students participated in events associated with the Common Reading Program.

The President's Club support also helps fund special recognition initiatives connected to the program, including the annual Common Reading Student Essay Contest, which encourages students to engage critically and creatively with the selected text.

As the first Shepherd graduate ever chosen as a Common Read author, Cross's selection created a unique opportunity for students to engage deeply with the work of a successful alumnus whose literary journey began on the same campus they call home. Faculty across multiple disciplines incorporated *Black Bear Creek* into their courses, encouraging students to read, analyze, discuss, and write about the collection throughout the semester.

By investing in programs such as the Common Reading Program, President's Club members enrich the academic experience, foster meaningful connections between students and accomplished alumni, and help create transformative learning opportunities that extend far beyond the classroom. ■

Funding from the President's Club helped sponsor Cross's September 2025 campus visit and a series of events that connected students directly with the author. During his visit, more than 200 students participated in classroom discussions, author talks, readings, and question-and-answer sessions, gaining valuable insight into the writing process and the professional path of a published author.

Highlights of the visit included a fiction-writing craft talk, an author reading and book signing





Intermediate Court of Appeals Lunch

The Stubblefield Institute and Shepherd University partnered to host the WV Intermediate Court of Appeals on Tuesday, September 16th, for their first court session ever held in the Eastern Panhandle. This event welcomed more than 150 students, educators, and community members to the campus to hear live oral arguments before the court. Students from Shepherd University, Blue Ridge Community & Technical College, Hedgesville High School, Jefferson High School, Musselman High School, Saint Joseph School, and Spring Mills High School filled the Frank Arts Center Theater for this unique opportunity to learn

more about the judicial system, court processes, legal arguments, and cases currently before the court. After the court adjourned, participants joined the justices and court staff for lunch, which was provided by Shepherd University's President's Club, the Eastern Panhandle Bar Association, and the Stubblefield Institute. ■





President's Club Support Enhances Community Aquatics Programming

President's Club members continue to make an immediate and meaningful impact across Shepherd University through their support of projects that enhance the student experience and strengthen community partnerships. One such investment this year was the purchase of a new computer system for the Wellness Center Aquatic Scoreboard.

This critical upgrade ensures the reliable operation of the scoreboard used during swim meets and aquatic events hosted at Shepherd University. The facility serves six local high school swim teams—Jefferson, Washington, Martinsburg, Spring Mills, Hedgesville, and Musselman—as well as a community swim club, providing a premier venue for competition and athletic development throughout the region.

Each year, hundreds of student-athletes, coaches, families, and spectators visit Shepherd's campus for these events. By funding this project, President's Club members helped maintain a high-quality experience for participants while supporting a resource that extends well beyond the University. Their generosity demonstrates how leadership-level philanthropy not only enhances campus facilities but also strengthens Shepherd University's role as a valued community partner throughout the Eastern Panhandle.

Because of the President's Club support, Shepherd can respond to important needs as they arise, investing in opportunities that enrich lives, foster community connections, and create lasting impact. ■

President's Club Support Expands Student Study Spaces in Scarborough Library

The President's Club support is helping Shepherd University address one of the most pressing needs identified by students: access to quiet, private study space.

Through ongoing assessment efforts, Scarborough Library documented more than 700 instances during the academic year in which students seeking study rooms were turned away because all available spaces were occupied. In response, the library secured a WISH grant to purchase individual study pods designed to provide students with private, distraction-reduced environments for academic work.

The study pods will support a variety of student needs, including studying, online coursework, virtual meetings, telehealth appointments, interviews, and other activities requiring privacy

and focus. Each pod features built-in lighting, ventilation, power outlets, comfortable seating, and sound-dampening technology.

The WISH grant funded the purchase of three study pods. Recognizing the importance of the project and the demonstrated student demand, President Mary J.C. Hendrix allocated additional funding through the President's Club, allowing the library to purchase a fourth pod. The expanded investment will increase access to much-needed study space and enhance the learning environment for students across campus.

The new pods represent a tangible example of how the President's Club support helps Shepherd respond quickly to emerging needs and invest in projects that directly enhance student success. ■





Inspiring Excellence Fundraiser Dinner

Shepherd University's inaugural Inspiring Excellence Dinner, held February 5, 2026, brought together elected officials, alumni, donors, campus leaders, and community supporters to celebrate and invest in the future of women's athletics at Shepherd. The event, with the President's Club serving as the premier sponsor, raised critical support for scholarships and programming that empowered female student-athletes to succeed in competition, academics, and leadership.

The evening featured keynote remarks from U.S. Senator Shelley Moore Capito, a former collegiate tennis player, who emphasized the importance of expanding access to athletics and the transformative role of scholarships in removing barriers to higher education. Student-athletes Merritt Delk (soccer), Samiyah Nasir (basketball), and Brenna Collis (softball)

shared personal reflections on how scholarship support has shaped their academic and athletic journeys.

A highlight of the evening was the presentation of the inaugural Mary J.C. Hendrix Legacy of Excellence Award to President Mary J.C. Hendrix, honoring her leadership and legacy as an alumna, former student-athlete, and university president. Hendrix spoke to the lasting impact of athletics, noting that the support of donors and sponsors helped create opportunities for student-athletes to grow as competitors and leaders.

Proceeds from the event directly supported women's athletics scholarships and programming, strengthening Shepherd's ability to recruit, retain, and empower student-athletes. ■

Caperton Piano Restoration Initiative

The Caperton family made a very special gift to Shepherd University: the Steinway piano of former West Virginia First Lady Ella Dee Caperton. The piano is currently undergoing restoration and, once completed, will be placed in historic Popodicon at Shepherd University.

President's Club funds were also used to support the restoration of this beloved Steinway piano — a cherished symbol of musical excellence and an enduring part of the University's cultural legacy. Through this effort, Shepherd is not only preserving a remarkable instrument but also honoring the memory and influence of Ella Dee Caperton, former First Lady of West Virginia and mother of current

Shepherd University Board of Governors member Gat Caperton.

This treasured piano will serve as a lasting source of cultural enrichment for the Shepherd community. In celebration of its arrival, Dr. Kelly Hart will work closely with the Caperton family to prepare a professionally framed display featuring a photograph of Ella Dee Caperton and historical information about the piano's significance and legacy. The display will be prominently exhibited alongside the restored Steinway in Popodicon Hall upon its arrival in September, honoring both the instrument's rich history and the Caperton family's enduring connection to Shepherd University. ■





Installation of the Popodicon Washer and Dryer

Under the leadership of President Mary J.C. Hendrix, the Shepherd University President's Club has provided a meaningful, practical enhancement to Popodicon, contributing to the installation of a new washer and dryer for the historic residence.

Popodicon, which will serve as the residence of Shepherd's incoming president, Dr. Cameron Wesson, required updated laundry appliances to support day-to-day living in the home. The President's Club's gift ensured that this need could be met promptly, providing both convenience and functionality for the incoming resident.

While modest in scale, the contribution reflects the President's Club's ongoing commitment to supporting the University's leadership and strengthening the living and working environments that support Shepherd's mission. Gifts such as this demonstrate the value of flexible, responsive support that addresses immediate needs across campus.

This investment also underscores the continued generosity of the President's Club and its role in enhancing the quality of campus life at Shepherd University. ■

East Campus Building Enhancements

President's Club funds were used for East Campus building enhancements before Homecoming, including improvements designed to enhance the appearance of the campus. This contributed to a positive experience for returning alumni and campus visitors. ■

Thank You for your support!



From left to right (Professor Heidi Hanrahan, Elizabeth (Betsy) Cushwa (scholarship recipient), Favor Okigweh (scholarship recipient), and President Mary J.C. Hendrix at the 2026 Scholarship Donor Reception.

Photo credit: Sam Levitan



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