

College Chronicle

August-September 2010



Director's Cut

Have you ever heard how gold is refined? It is a procedure that involves dangerous chemicals, an induction furnace, a granulator, and time – a rather extensive process, but in the end one of the world's most valuable and precious commodities is produced.

After he lost most of his family and material possessions, the biblical character Job said, "...when he (God) has tested me, I will come forth as gold." What an amazing perspective, viewing the trials he was enduring to the process of refining gold. It is clear that Job fully expected God to use the challenges and difficulties in his life to bring about something of great value.

While there is no induction furnace or dangerous chemicals involved in the Shepherds College refinement process, the SC experience certainly presents its own set of significant challenges. Consider everything that is part of a student's first month at Shepherds College:

1. Most are away from home for the first time, creating stress for students and parents alike.
2. The students are placed in a new residential setting, surrounded by peers they most likely don't know.
3. Their lives are full of structure and a series of responsibilities that often exceeds anything they have ever experienced.

It is a significant set of changes and challenges and at times it probably feels overwhelming.

Likewise, there is no question that our second and third year students face their own set of challenges and adversity. Our faculty and staff do as well. It is important that we work together to make it through this refinement process, trusting that God will use this experience to grow us all.

Lou Holtz, a longtime football coach, has stated, "Show me someone who has done something worthwhile and I will show you someone who has overcome adversity." I am convinced that Shepherds College is worthwhile, and I am confident that collectively we can overcome the adversity that we face, and in time the end result will be even more valuable than gold.



Angela's Angle

First Year Academic Update

Firm Foundations – In Firm Foundations we have considered some of the wonders of being part of the creation purposely designed by our wonderful Creator. We looked at a dead branch to remind us that not only is our biological life dependent upon God, but our spiritual life as well. We discussed the difference between doing things our own way or doing things God's way. Students read about Adam, Eve, Cain, Noah, and the people of Babel. Abel, Noah, and Abram were examples of men who walked by faith. Students also memorize key Bible verses.

Computer Skills – Students learned computer basics such as how to send e-mails, create Microsoft Word documents, and the function of various computer parts.

Students demonstrated their computer cleaning skills by cleaning the computers for several Shepherds Ministries staff members.

Cooking – Students have learned basic cooking skills. They are learning how to prepare meals and work together.

Daily Living Skills – Students wrote goals and discussed leadership skills. They continue to learn about how to be organized and how to keep their residential space clean.

Introduction to Culinary Arts - Under Chef McCarthy's supervision, the first year students prepare a weekly community meal for students and staff. Homemade Bolognese sauce over penne pasta was served with steamed fresh corn was one such meal. Students and staff eat the meal at Shepherds Table. It is amazing to see what 26 students and faculty look like when all are gathered in one place!



Introduction to Horticulture – Students learned the parts of a seed, what needs to happen in order for seeds to germinate, and why seeds might not germinate. Students created a design using seeds.

Language Arts – This year started with the students writing news articles about each other. They also learned how to write a friendly letter. Students have been studying grammar and parts of speech.

Math & Money Skills – Students have been practicing place value and basic math skills including addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division. Students have also practiced these skills with decimals in order to have a base knowledge for money. The students enjoy learning through visuals, class discussion, and hands-on activities, such as Math Wars and the Boxed Ball Throw.

Personal Bible Study – Students started the semester by studying prayer. Students learned to pray using the ACTS method (Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, and Supplication). They studied the Lord's Prayer and looked at various prayers throughout the Bible. Students are doing a book study on Philippians.

Personal Development 1 – The students learned friendship skills such as getting to know others, loyalty, sharing, and appreciation. They also demonstrated the steps to making a good first impression: smile, say hello, shake their hand, share your name, and seek to know them by asking a question. Students learned how to practice discernment through the Decision Steps.

Decision Steps

1. How do I feel?
2. Stop and think.
3. What's wrong?
4. What can I do?
5. Pick the best solution and do it.
6. How did it work? How do I feel now?

Students are learning how to write and complete S.M.A.R.T. goals. S.M.A.R.T. stands for **S**pecific, **M**easurable, **A**chievable, **R**elevant, and **T**ime-bound.

Study Skills – Students took a learning preference test to see if they were visual, auditory, tactile, or kinesthetic learners. They also learned about the four areas to look for in a study environment: setting, lighting, noise, and temperature. Students realized the best study environment for them. Students continue to learn how to use the local library and enjoy checking out books twice a month.

Second Year Academic Update

Life of Christ – Students learned the keys to understanding the life of Christ. They learned about the different perspectives of the gospel authors and played "Guess that Gospel Writer!" by using the "Who Wants to be a Millionaire?" game. They also learned about the basic geography of Israel.

Church History – The book of Acts is the foundational piece for this course. Students learned how the Gospel spread from Jerusalem to Samaria and throughout the world. Students studied key verses such as Acts 1:8 and Acts 4:12. Students learned about key people such as: Peter, James, Stephen, Barnabas, and Paul.

Communications – Students learned the difference between verbal, non-verbal, and written communication. They also experienced how their non-

verbal communication could affect their verbal communication.

Culinary Arts – During the first month of culinary arts, second year students focused on learning about professionalism and work place etiquette. Students learned knife skills and made cream puffs. Students prepared lunch for prospective students at an Open House; their first catering event went well.



Horticulture – Students do a combination of in-class work and hands-on tasks both on the grounds and in the greenhouse. The students can already identify 15 plants by common and scientific names. They have practiced the landscape maintenance skill of dead-heading, weeding, watering and transplanting. The students are also responsible for maintaining the plants around the Union Grove Welcome Sign that were designed by third year student, Jessica Gobeli.



Personal Development 2 – Students created and acted out scenarios that demonstrate conflict resolution and

how to make a good decision. Through this activity they practiced using teamwork and creativity. Students worked in teams to teach S.M.A.R.T. goals to first year students. They discussed examples, created posters, and explained how S.M.A.R.T. goals have helped them be successful.

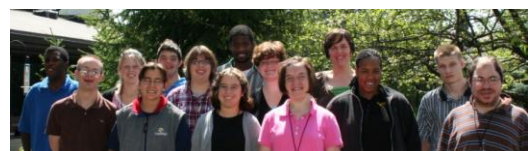
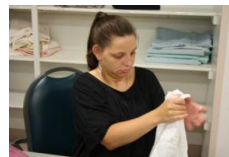
Personal Finance – Personal Finance class began by focusing on the importance of saving money by starting a penny jar project. Students collect pennies weekly in an effort to watch the pennies grow and accumulate throughout the semester. They have also begun focusing on the difference between income and expense, the basis of a budget.

Third Year Academic Updates

Psalms – In this course, students have been learning to pray through the Psalms. Spiritual and emotional experiences such as fear, doubt, sadness, joy, worship – all of which are a part of life are found in the Psalms. David demonstrated worship by realizing who he was in light of who God is. David brought his raw emotions to God and trusted in his unfailing love.

Trained for Life – This course is designed to prepare students for life after graduation. Students have been gaining a better understanding of Appropriate Independence and how to practically apply it to their lives. Students studied the 6 character traits of SC – diligent, discernment, initiative, integrity, responsibility, and respect. Students defined and practiced healthy boundaries in a variety of settings.

Ready for Life – Students have the opportunity to apply principles from Personal Bible Study and apply it in this course. Ready for Life is an independent Bible study and weekly discussion. Students have studied topics such as friendship, conflict, etc.



Internship Updates

Culinary Arts – Culinary Arts internships are going well and students are doing a great job. Nikki works at the Union Grove Elementary School in the cafeteria. Scott’s internship is in Shepherds Ministries’ main kitchen. Gloria works at a Country Rose Bakery & Cafe.



Her early morning shift starts at 4:00 a.m.! This has been a real “eye opener” for with the realities of a baker’s schedule. The third-year interns are being honed as professionals with skills that will, with God’s help, provide them with great opportunities in the future.



Horticulture – The third year students are enjoying their internship at Michael Fields Agriculture Institute, Stella Gardens. They have worked with harvesting and preparing a variety of vegetables, transplanting, building compost piles, and using small engines. When asked to describe their internship, the students responded, “It is amazing!”



Extra-Curricular Activities

Special Olympics Bowling – Practice has helped prepare students for area games in October. It’s always exciting when students roll a strike.

Down Syndrome Awareness Walk – Almost 40 students, staff, and parents participated in the 14th Annual Down Syndrome Awareness Walk. Participants walked 1.5 miles around the Milwaukee County Zoo. Some favorite animals were the brown bears, snakes, and monkeys. This was both a fun activity and a way to show that we support the right to life.



Announcements

Travel Plan Deadlines

- **Thanksgiving Break** - Please submit all travel plans for Thanksgiving weekend to Cathy Harvey by October 27. Travel dates for Thanksgiving are Wednesday, November 24th and Sunday, November 25th. Classes resume on Monday, the 26th.
- **Christmas Break** - Please submit travel plans for Christmas break to Cathy Harvey by November 3. Travel dates for Christmas break are Saturday and Sunday, December 11 and 12, with return dates on Monday and Tuesday, January 17 and 18. Wednesday, January 19th begins with a mandatory Personal Development retreat.

We ask that you meet travel deadlines to ensure enough time to order prescriptions and pack medications. Failure to meet deadlines could result in a fee charged to parents to ship medications home after students have left for break.

Follow Shepherds College – You can follow Shepherds College on both Twitter and Facebook. We have over 1,000 followers on Twitter and over 100 people have joined our Facebook group.

If you haven’t done so already, please visit the college website at www.shepherdscollege.org, and feel free to recommend it to others who may be looking for a unique college opportunity for their son or daughter.



Karli's Corner

One of my favorite lessons this year has been in Communications class which focused on verbal and non-verbal communication. To practice non-verbal communication, students were given an emotion to portray such as excited, sad, happy, paranoid, and angry. Each student demonstrated their emotion and the rest of the class guessed the emotion. We talked about how the students' body language and facial expressions helped portray the emotion.

Another activity that focused on non-verbal communication was called "Sort the Cards." Each student was given a playing card that had either a heart or a spade on it. They had to group themselves together according to the card they had chosen without speaking. They did really well at this using hand gestures and pointing to either red or black objects in the room. I made this activity slightly harder by giving them spade and club cards. They had to group themselves by suit, but also put themselves in numerical order. This proved to be more difficult because some students used their fingers to air draw the suit and the numbers while others used actions. The students eventually were able to group and order themselves.



Elyse and Erin's Element

Although Academic Advisor and Instructor are our professional titles, we have found that a variety of titles below could also apply:

- Actress
- Band Aide Applier
- Locker Un-jammer
- Song and Dance Coordinator
- Tissue Supplier
- Wii Champion
- Soup and Tea Distributor
- IRIS Coordinator

- Medical Transporter
- Behavior Support Plan Charter
- Bank Teller
- Prayer Warrior
- Tutor
- Copier Queen
- Meteorologist
- Counselor
- Paperwork Patroller
- Lunch Supervisor
- All Around Crisis Averter - the world will not end when the cafeteria runs out of egg rolls.

This being said, we have made it through the thick and thin together. We have seen difficult times, but have also been blessed with many accomplishments. We have cried and wiped tears, but have also shared in laughter. We have struggled with change, but have relished the lighthearted side of our students. Here is a song that our first year female students concocted to the tune of "What Can Make a Hippopotamus Smile?" "What can calm a student down? What can change their life around? It's not talking or texting all night, or moaning and groaning when you get in a fight. That's not what students need. They love to learn and study all day; and memorizing verses is fun to say. That's what students need."

Please know that we have seen much growth and development in first year students already, in a short amount of time. We count each day with the students a blessing and find joy and encouragement in each one. We leave you with a smile and a prayer that God will bless, support, and encourage you the way he has for us.

Scrapbook

Res Life Fun...



Striking a pose...

