

College Chronicle

October - November 2010



Director's Cut

On October 24-26, we hosted an accreditation team from North Central Accreditation and AdvancED for a candidacy visit. This team's assignment was to assess Shepherds College based on a set of seven standards in order to determine if our school has the capacity to successfully navigate through the accreditation process. The team conducted interviews with staff, students, and external stakeholders. They visited classes, toured our campus, and evaluated documented evidence that we have in place for each of the seven standards.

At the conclusion of the visit, the team shared their findings with our faculty and staff. It was a very encouraging report overall as they cited many areas in which our school successfully meets the accreditation standards. In the end, they have recommended Shepherds College for accreditation candidacy. There are a couple of formal steps and additional approval that needs to take place, but we fully anticipate that on February 3, 2011 the AdvancED Board of Directors will officially grant us candidacy status as a non-degree granting postsecondary school.

Candidacy status for SC is significant for a number of reasons. It will allow us to make application to the Federal Student Aid (FSA) program, and hopefully lead to our participation in that financial aid program. Once we are approved for FSA, families of students attending SC will be able to complete a FAFSA online and apply for financial aid.

Accreditation for Shepherds College is something that was started even before the school opened, so obtaining candidacy status is a very significant accomplishment. The credit for this success goes to an amazing team, including SC faculty and staff and a number of staff from Shepherds Ministries who served on our internal accreditation team. Here is a list of the men and women that are to be commended for their contributions in this endeavor:

SC Faculty & Staff: Jenna Brasch, Brian Canright, Elyse Fye, Cathy Harvey, Bruce Henne, Angela Houk, Lori Konopasek, Leslie Leith, Karli Luchterhand, Bryan Lupo, Brett McCarthy, Erin Reynolds, Jason Servi, Stephanie Sheppard, Paul Von Tobel, and Chris Wright.

Shepherds Staff: Nancy Abels, Ruth Bose, Allan Castelli, Kim DeVrou, Ashley Gilmore, Jill Gilmore, Susan Griffis, Steve Hartmann, Owen Lackey, Michele McGarry, Nate Peterson, Becci Terrill, and Mary Wright.

Shepherds Ministries Executive Team: Dr. Bill Amstutz, President; Dr. Russ Kinkade, Executive Vice President; Dan DiDonato, Vice President of Development; and Michael Lowstetter, Vice President of Finance.

We are pleased with the accomplishments thus far and recognize that there is still a lot of work to complete. We anticipate hosting an accreditation visit in the fall of 2011 or early in 2012.

Shepherds College
*Guiding Your Transition to
Appropriate Independence™*



Angela's Angle

First Year Academic Update

Firm Foundations – Students have been tracing the line of the promised Messiah – the Christ throughout the Old Testament and currently in the New Testament. Students learned about Jesus' birth, baptism, and miracles. Jesus was the promised deliver who came to be the sin offering for all mankind.

Computer Skills – In the past two months, we have covered how to buy a computer, typing skills, internet safety, and Microsoft Outlook. Students are currently learning how to use Microsoft Word.

Cooking – Students have been learning about kitchen safety and the importance of hand washing to keep from spreading disease.

Daily Living Skills – Students have been learning how to clean the various rooms in the residential housing. They made chore charts, which are turned in each week for a grade.

Health Dimensions – The students studied about Personal Hygiene and Personal Perception. They learned about the layers of skin and how to care for it. They also learned how to floss and brush their teeth. A dental hygienist visited class and showed a video about germs found in our mouth. The students played a review game and received new tooth brushes. Students explored their personal perception and ways to better understand themselves.

Introduction to Culinary Arts – The students enjoy working in the kitchen and have demonstrated a propensity for the industry. The emphasis has been on basic skills to test their engagement and interest within the culinary major.

Introduction to Horticulture – The first year students have been studying tree identification. They learned why leaves change their colors, shapes of leaves, the importance of tree bark, and the layers of a trunk. They learned that many trees can be identified simply by the shape of the leaf or the color of the bark. The first year students in Mrs. K.'s class collaborated with the second year horticulture students to do a volunteer project with Shepherds residents teaching them how to make a picture frame using twigs from trees.



Language Arts – The students learned the eight parts of speech. They were able to remember the jingles that helped them on their mid-term exam. The students took that knowledge and applied it to writing a book report. The students also began working on a research paper about one of the states.

Math & Money Skills – First year students have been studying fractions. They identified where fractions are found in everyday life such as in recipes and measurement. Another fun unit was liquid measurement in which students made fruit punch. They learned about elapsed time, time management, scheduling, and calendars.

Personal Bible Study – We have covered so much material! As of the beginning of November, students memorized 14 verses, learned how to pray, and practiced spiritual journaling. Students learned basic inductive Bible study methods and completed a book study on 1 John. First year students are growing a lot.

Personal Development 1 – After finishing SMART goals (Specific, Measureable, Achievable, Relevant, Time-bound), the students set a goal related to exercise and tracked it for one week. They will continue to set and track weekly SMART goals for the remainder of the year. Along with weekly goals, the students discussed anger, self-control, and conflict, and the importance of

responding appropriately to conflict. They learned conflict resolution steps and worked to apply them in their daily lives.

Conflict Resolution Steps

1. Tell the person what they did that you did not like.
2. Tell the person how you feel.
3. Say what you would like them to do instead.
4. Ask for an agreement.

Study Skills – Interviewing skills are crucial to finding a job. The students learned about how to present themselves during an interview. This includes how to



dress, introduce themselves, and speak professionally. They also went to the library to find books for their

report and research papers.

Second Year Academic Update

Life of Christ – The first year and a half of Jesus’ ministry was full of exciting people, places, and lessons. Students learned how to be a follower of Jesus. We discussed how Jesus called the disciples to be fishers of men. Students learned that Jesus calls them to be “gardeners of men” or “bakers of men” and to reach others for Christ through the skills they are learning at college.

Church History – Flying through the years as we studied highlights from the Apostolic Church, Persecuted Church, Imperial Church, and Medieval Church Eras. Students did a great job memorizing James 1:1-8. We discussed how trials develop maturity in the life of a believer.

Communications – The ability to work as a team is crucial for job success. The students have spent a great deal of time on teamwork. They have learned that teamwork is working as a group to use each individual’s strengths and abilities to accomplish a common goal. Good teamwork includes having a servant leader, listening, respecting other team members, cooperation, compromise, staying focused on the task, and doing your part without whining, complaining, or making excuses. The students were able to demonstrate good

teamwork through activities like the Paper Tower. As a group, they had to create the tallest tower out of 20 sheets of paper.



Culinary Arts – Along with learning the more concrete skills that this industry demands, Chef McCarthy is also ensuring that students work as a team while cooking with rigid time constraints. He has emphasized the character traits of initiative and diligence while also insuring that the students are detail-oriented, efficient, and accurate. Students had the opportunity to cater for lunches during the Accreditation Team visit and the dedication of the SC Homes.



Horticulture – The second year horticulture students have participated in three professional work study days. At the Janesville Rotary Botanical Garden, the students were responsible for the annual bed clean-up and planting fall bulbs. At Michael Fields Agriculture

Institute the student worked side by side with the third year SC interns. The students also visited Roseanne’s Florist to learn four different flower arrangement styles. The students were responsible for the 20 table top arrangements during the dedication luncheon. They recreated what they learned at the floral shop to decorate the tables. The students also displayed their creativity by scooping out pumpkins and gourds, applying a plastic liner and using fall colored flowers to create beautiful displays for the food tables.



feedback to help sharpen their skills and calm their nerves.

Ready for Life – Students have been reading and answering questions in the book, *Ready for Life*, an informal, self-guided Bible study. Topics covered recently include: trust, truth, how to relate with the opposite sex, and service.

Internship Updates

Culinary Arts – Our third-year interns are doing a phenomenal job! Chef McCarthy has heard nothing but great praise for their work ethic and performance at their job sites. He has asked each supervisor at the work sites to continue to give them increasingly greater amounts of responsibility while also holding them accountable for how well they execute each responsibility. He feels certain that by the end of this school year both Gloria and Nikki will be able to successfully hold down a position in an entry level or even higher capacity within this field.

Horticulture – The third year horticulture students started their winter internship at Shepherds Greenhouse on November 8th. The students were responsible for greenhouse management, landscape maintenance, poinsettia sales, and grounds crew work. They experienced unique opportunities during their fall internship at Michael Fields Agriculture Institute in East Troy, Wisconsin, and their supervisor is looking forward to their return in the spring.

Personal Development 2 – “Appropriate Independence” (Ai) is the guiding philosophy for Shepherds College. Students discussed and applied the



first two of four concepts of Ai. 1) *People are designed by God on and for a purpose.* Students identified their general purpose and recognized God’s intentional design. Students created an object out of Play Dough to

represent designed on and for a purpose. Students shared the purpose of each object.

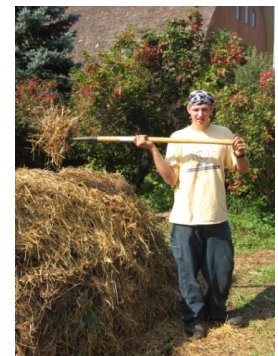
2) *People are created by God as individuals for community.* Students considered their individuality and then discussed the importance of community. A portion of understanding community was learning to appreciate one another and working together.

Personal Finance – In an effort to help make budgeting a fun and exciting topic, students played a life-sized LIFE game. They focused on a specific job, income, and set a budget. Students found an apartment and transportation that fit within their budget.

Third Year Academic Updates

Psalms – We studied Psalm 119 and allowed God to renew our minds about the way we view Scripture. Old Testament David had a high view of Scripture and of its authority in the life and practice of the believer.

Trained for Life – Students reviewed healthy home habits (cleaning and maintenance) as well as job coaching tips in preparation for their second interview fair. It was a great experience for them to practice their skills with friendly interviewers who gave constructive



Michael Fields Agriculture Internship Top 10 List

By: Jessica Gobeli and Brian Meyers

10. *Mosquitoes*
9. *Peeling onions and garlic for customer orders*
8. *Washing smelly debris compost buckets*
7. *Using the rotatiller to make a walking path and adding mulch*
6. *Harvesting, drying, weighing, and packaging herbs*
5. *Building perfect compost piles*
4. *Driving the Kubota*
3. *Riding the transplant tractor to plant rows of lettuce*
2. *Eating a picnic lunch at a Hobby Farm*
1. *All of the people we worked with...and the End of the Season Harvest Celebration...**We can't wait to go back for our spring internship!***



Ai² Groups

Appropriate Independence (Ai) is the driving philosophy of Shepherds College and is defined as supported self-sufficiency that is aligned with the strengths of each individual and guided by Christian principles. The second principle of Ai states that every person was created by God as individuals with the innate need to belong to a social group. As the student population multiplied at SC, it became imperative to develop student-led community groups. Ai² groups were formed in an effort to develop student leaders, provide a student support system, and to promote Ai.

The purpose of Ai² groups is to encourage a sense of community, offer emotional and spiritual support, provide an outlet for creativity, and enhance campus

unity. The primary goal is to provide a social setting where students are able to share common interests while utilizing their personal strengths. Each group has a student leader, student co-leader, and a staff facilitator. Student leaders and co-leaders assist the group members in planning weekly activities, semester service projects, and topical spiritual discussions. The role of staff is to provide direction and support, as well as mentor and train student leaders. Ai² groups allow staff to practically teach and implement the six character traits of SC: diligence, discernment, initiative, integrity, respect, and responsibility. Student leaders practice and model the six character traits for other students, which produce life changing results.

Extra-Curricular Activities

Handbell Choir – One of the first year students is a sub with the Shepherds Handbell Choir and recently had the opportunity to play in the choir and share about Shepherds College at area churches.

Special Olympics Bowling – On October 17th, students traveled to Kenosha, Wisconsin for the SO Area Bowling Tournament.

- **Singles Category** - First year student, Ray Mandelky, took 1st place.
- **Team Categories** - Amanda Savala, Samuel Zdancewicz, Melissa Holm, and Seth Peters earned third place.
Sixth place was awarded to Kyle Engdahl, Jocelyn Monroe, Jessica Gobeli, and Brian Meyers.

Special Olympics Sports Banquet – The Sports Banquet was held in October, and Daniel Frania spoke about playing for the Wisconsin basketball team at the National Games.

The following students received medals from their coaches for outstanding performance or maintaining a sportsmanship attitude.

- **Basketball** - Daniel Frania and Gloria Pavuk
- **Bowling** - Brian Meyers
- **Track and Field** - Melissa Holm
- **Swimming** - Seth Peters

Congratulations to all the students for their diligence and determination!

Special Olympics Volleyball – The volleyball team traveled to Watertown, Wisconsin and placed 2nd in the Regional volleyball tournament. The Shepherds volleyball team will compete in the state game on Dec. 4. DeAnna and Aaron did a great job on the team, exhibiting good attitudes and great team spirit. Congratulations to them both! They are really excited about playing at State.

Student Work

Third year student, Scott LeRette, shared his thoughts on Psalm 62 after studying it in Psalms class. He presented framed copies to his pastor and assistant pastor for Pastor Appreciation Day at his church.

My Thoughts about Psalm 62

By: Scott Le Rette

My salvation finds rest alone in God who created me. He alone is my daily rock and my salvation. He is my fortress. In Him I will never fear what He does for my life. I will never insult God or throw Him down because He wonderfully created me. I will never find pleasure in mankind's lies, but rejoice whatever is true about God.

My rest comes from God and not man for what God has done for me. I will trust in God at all times. But don't take pride in evil thoughts, but take pride in God, but set your thoughts on good things above because God is strong. Rewarding what God has done for me and rewarding what He is going to do for my future as His child when I put my complete trust in Him and what man can't do to me because I am His child.

Announcements

STARS Presentation (Seeking To Always Reflect the Savior) – Seven students, one parent, and three staff

had the opportunity to speak about Shepherds College at the Wheaton Church on November 5, 2010. Tess, Amber, and Kelsie presented on the Parts of Speech. Kyle



and another second year student recited James 1:1-8 from memory. Brian and Gloria listed the six character traits and their definitions. If you have any speaking

opportunities for Shepherds College in your community, please contact Susan Griffis at 262-878-5620 ext. 2303.

Christmas Break – Travel dates for Christmas break are Saturday and Sunday, December 11 and 12, with return dates on Monday and Tuesday, January 17 and 18. On Wednesday, January 19th students will attend a mandatory Personal Development retreat.

A “Hearty” Donation – Shepherds College would like to express our appreciation for a grant received from the Union Grove Area Community Foundation to purchase an AED (Automated External Defibrillator) for the new college homes. We continually thank God for such thoughtful donations that continue to raise the safety and quality of life at the college.



Media Exposure – We are very excited about the exposure Shepherds College has received since school began this fall in the following publications.

- *SEEN* magazine, August 2010, a 2-page story titled, “Why Post Secondary Education for Young Adults with Intellectual Disabilities?”
- *The Baptist Bulletin* published an August article concerning the AED machine (Automated External Defibrillation) donated for the college residential buildings.
- *Christianity Today* magazine, November 2010, printed “Why Not College for the Disabled? New faith-based school opens doors for young adults with intellectual disabilities.” You can read the 4-page article on their website at <http://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2010/november/12.17.html>.
- *The Best of Your Hometown* magazine featured students on two different covers. Kyle Engdahl carrying a large vase of poinsettias appeared on one and Rachel Ames creating a poinsettia arrangement on another. These will be seen by over 30,000 people.
- *Mission Network News*, November 2010, a web publication.

Shepherds Ministries' Director of Marketing, Susan Griffis, is also planning for these upcoming articles. We thank Susan for all her diligence and enthusiasm in her ministry.

- *Logan* magazine, December 2010 issue will carry a story featuring Nicole Martin.
- *Exceptional Parent*, December 2010 issue will feature author, Christina Goldstone, parent of a 2011 prospective students. Mrs. Goldstone wrote an about her and her daughter's experience applying to and visiting Shepherds College. Additionally, Daniela Goldstone, who visited the college in September, is blogging her journey to Shepherds College at www.danielasjourney.blogspot.com.

Follow Shepherds College – You can follow Shepherds College on both Twitter and Facebook. 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

During a recent Communications class activity, the second year students created a Shepherds College Student Mission Statement. Working as a team, they wrote the following:

We, the students of Shepherds College, believe that using teamwork by listening, showing respect to others, sharing ideas, and being a servant leader will help us to succeed in our Appropriate Independence.

Another student recently shared the following letter with me. It encourages me to see such growth in our students!

I am very thankful for Shepherds College. All my teachers care about me. They wonder how I am doing spiritually. They want to know how I am doing. They will take time out of their day to make sure I am doing okay. I am learning a lot at school; more than I would know if I didn't come here. I am pushing myself and

not giving up. My friends encourage me not to give up on school. The teachers do as well, and they encourage me to stay here. I will make it, but it won't be easy – either here or in Poland. I want to stay here, but I have to rely on God's strength to help me. On Wednesday, Miss L. really encouraged me to do better in school. I have not been doing my best lately, and I know I can do better. I need to start using discernment in my life. I need to start paying more attention in my classes. Miss Fye and Miss L. really encouraged me. I really enjoy their hugs.



Elyse and Erin's Element

During our recent accreditation visit, we were asked the question, "If you had a magic wand for Shepherds College and could use it any way you wanted, how you would use it?" We thought we would share several responses with you.

- **Magic Mirror:** It is easy to focus on the struggles that our students have day to day. The magic mirror would help us to see the small, every-day victories that we often overlook.
- **Tool Belt:** As academic advisors, it is our job to equip our students with the necessary tools to thrive in society. It is not a matter of changing our students, but of teaching them tools to adapt to situations.
- **Time Machine:** We wish we had more time during the day to spend fostering growth in our students. This occurs through building relationships with them and walking with them through their lives, helping them learn the skills necessary for independence.
- **Super Heroes:** Volunteers! We need a base of qualified and competent volunteers to spend quality time helping our students with homework and life skills.

We praise God for all victories – large and small. Thank you for sharing your son or daughter with us. We are so proud of them!

Scrapbook

Students and staff at Jenna (Patton) Brasch's wedding.

