

SHEPHERD UNIVERSITY ATHLETIC CLUB

ATHLETICS *Newsletter*

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IN THIS ISSUE

- 1 From the SUAC President
- 2 SUAC board member spotlight
- 2 Tyson Bagent wins Harlon Hill Award
- 2 SUAC information
- 3 Assistant Athletic Director Mark Warren
- 3 Women's Basketball Coach Julie Kaufman
- 4 SUAC student-athlete spotlight
- 4 SUAC upcoming events
- 4 SUAC news and notes



From the SUAC President

Since moving into the President's role for the SUAC in 2021, it has been an easy transition thanks to the foundation created by our inaugural President Scott Doleman. We are very fortunate to have such a dedicated group of board members that work tirelessly to continue to raise the bar. I would personally like to thank our board members, donors, and supporters for all of their help and support. Just as in sports, it takes a team to create the results we are striving for—and we are making good progress. SUAC continues to grow with your support and donations, but we have larger goals to achieve. Our hope is to one day have all sports at Shepherd University fully funded so we can compete on an even playing field with our competition. On behalf of the SUAC and Shepherd Athletics, please consider joining SUAC if you are not a member, and if you are a member, continue to support us at your



highest giving ability. Your support makes a difference in the life of a student-athlete and all sports at our great University.

The future is bright but we have more work to do!

Go Rams!

Sincerely,

Tripp Lowe
SUAC President



Shepherd University Athletic Club
www.suathleticclub.org



SUAC Board Member spotlight

Meg Patterson (*pictured left*) graduated from West Virginia University with a degree in physical education in 2002 and a master's in sport management in 2006. After working in minor league baseball and in the athletic department at James Madison University, Meg started her career at Shepherd in 2009 working for the Shepherd University Foundation. She has been the director of donor relations with the Foundation since 2017. An avid sports fan, Meg can often be found at Shepherd athletic events both on and off the field. Recently married to her husband Glenn, she enjoys spending her spare time engaged in community theater. They reside in Charles Town, West Virginia. Meg handles all of the social media engagement for the Shepherd University Athletic Club. Thank you, Meg! ■



Tyson Bagent wins Harlon Hill Award

In December 2021, Junior QB Tyson Bagent won the Harlon Hill Award for 2021 as the best player in NCAA Division II college football. A finalist in the full season prior to COVID-19, Tyson received 169 points in the voting with the runner-up receiving 105 points. He completed 391 of 579 passes for 5,000 yards and 53 touchdowns. He led DII in passing yards (5,000), touchdown passes (53), and points responsible for (338). He passed for four or more touchdowns in nine games. A five-time

PSAC East Offensive Athlete of the Week this season, Bagent also threw for 300 yards or more in 10 contests. He is the ninth player at all NCAA levels—and only the second in DII—with at least 5,000 passing yards and 50 touchdown passes. Tyson led the Rams to a 13-2 mark this season and an appearance in the national semifinals. He was honored at the Little Rock Touchdown Club awards banquet on Friday, January 14, 2022. On behalf of the SUAC and all Ram fans, congratulations Tyson! ■

SUAC information

The SUAC board wishes all of our members and fans continued health and peace through this time. We also want to thank you for your generosity to all of our sports and their facilities. When we all support a vision in pursuit of the University's athletic goals, it will be successful! ■



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Meet new Assistant Athletic Director **Mark Warren**

Vice President of Athletics Chauncey Winbush announced the hiring of Mark Warren to the position of assistant athletic director of external affairs in April 2022. He takes over the post vacated by Andy Ferguson in November 2021. Mark comes to Shepherd after opportunities in events and operations, most specifically corporate sales, since 2019. His most recent experience was with a minor league baseball affiliate of the Texas Rangers organization. He graduated from the Naval Operational Medicine Institute in 2009 and the University of Georgia in 2020. Mark provides Shepherd Athletics with invaluable leadership qualities

along with social media and technical skills. With experience in coaching and administration, Mark will not only help bring additional skills to Chauncey's team but also assist Shepherd Athletics in reaching its goal of providing our student-athletes with the best opportunities during their time here and beyond. Mark and his wife Charlotte have 4-year-old twin sons, Ryker and Myles. Mark enjoys spending time with the family at the beach, hiking, and judging BBQ events. Welcome to Shepherd and its great community, Mark, Charlotte, and family! ■



Meet new Women's Basketball Coach **Julie Kaufman**

Vice President of Athletics Chauncey Winbush has announced the hiring of Julie Kaufman as the next Shepherd women's basketball coach. Kaufman takes over the program from Jenna Ekleberry, who accepted the head coaching position at Frostburg State University. Kaufman comes back to Shepherd after serving as an assistant coach and recruiting coordinator for the Rams from 2011-2013. In the 2013 season, the team was ranked 14th in the nation in scoring offense and 17th in field goal percentage. Her most recent experience was as an assistant coach and recruiting coordinator with NCAA Division I school Mount Saint Mary's University. She came to Mount Saint Mary's after spending the 2016-17 season as an assistant coach at Niagara University. Prior to her time at Niagara,

Kaufman worked for three seasons as an assistant coach at Seton Hill University in Greensburg, Pennsylvania, where she primarily worked to help develop the team's post players. Coach Kaufman began her collegiate coaching career at Hood College in Frederick, Maryland, serving as a graduate assistant from 2008-2011. She played collegiate basketball at Catawba College in North Carolina, where she helped lead her squad to a pair of conference championships and two NCAA Division II regional appearances. Kaufman earned her bachelor's degree in physical education from Catawba College in 2005 and completed her master's in curriculum and instruction at Hood College in 2011. Welcome back to Shepherd, Coach Kaufman! Let's go Rams!! ■



SUAC Student Athlete spotlight

Our student-athlete spotlight shines on senior golfer Mason Kidwell. Mason just completed his third season in Coach Ingram's program. He does have another year of athletic eligibility but intends to graduate with a B.A. in business administration and pursue his career as a real estate agent. While the Shepherd golf team did not qualify as a team for the regional tournament, Mason did qualify as an individual. He completed his three rounds at the Ravenswood Golf Course in Victor, New York, tied for 34th in a field of 108. Mason came to Shepherd four years ago from Washington High School in nearby Charles Town, West Virginia, after their team won the state golf championship in his senior year. SUAC would like to thank Mason for choosing Shepherd and being a Ram student-athlete! We wish you the best and don't forget to come home again to see us and the future generations of Ram student-athletes! ■



The SUAC has been a great benefit to our baseball program. We have been able to reach a donor base that would've been impossible without the SUAC. We have been able to continue providing our student-athletes with top of line athletic gear as well as increase the student-athlete experience here at Shepherd because of the SUAC. I look forward to the continued benefits the SUAC provides from the generous donations by alumni, fans and friends to this organization.

- Coach Matt McCarty

SUAC Upcoming Events

- June—SUAC Fiscal 2022-23 membership mailer (annual SUAC membership renewal)
- Friday, August 5—RamFest (benefits Shepherd Athletics)
- Friday, October 14—SUAC Homecoming Event
- November—Thankful to be a Ram Campaign (annual donation challenge between Ram sports teams)

SUAC News and Notes

- SUAC eclipses \$600,000 in total giving to Shepherd Athletics just four years since its inception
- 1st "Rammys" athletic awards ceremony sponsored by SUAC held in April
- New scoreboard unveiled at Sara Cree Softball Field during 2022 spring season