



# **SHEPHERD PROGRAM**

*Annual Report 2023-2024*

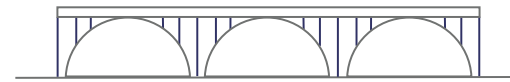


## BY THE NUMBERS



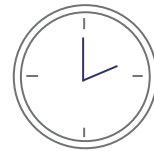
109

*Volunteer Venture Participants*



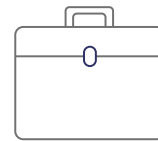
119

*Students in the Gateway Course*



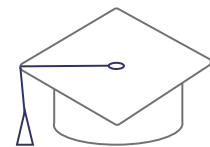
12,790

*Bonner Service Hours*



46

*Summer Interns*



29

*Graduated Minors*



684

*CKWL Backpack Program Recipients*

Cover Art by **Molly Pennisi '24**. For a photo project titled Reflections, Pennisi asked friends: “Who makes you feel safe? What makes you feel safe? Where do you feel safe?” The cover image of Mattingly House, home of the Shepherd Program, reflects the answer given by POV minor Christian Pinto '24. “The Mattingly House for me was a place of congregation. I could always find my friends in the living room, squeezed all on one couch, talking about how to solve all the world’s problems. College is hard, life is harder, but everything seemed a little bit easier in Mattingly, surrounded by people who care about the world, and about me.”

# The Art of Respect

**The Shepherd mission:** To understand and address the causes and consequences of poverty and inequality in ways that respect the dignity of every person.

**Why are we here?** More specifically, what is the point of college?

In particular, what is the point of the Shepherd Program at W&L, especially in an election year?

There are, of course, different answers to those questions.

*Career Preparation:* Some say college is, first and foremost, preparation for a future career. More accurately, standing on the verge of an unknown world of AI and more, each of us needs the skills, insights, and dispositions not only to get a job, but also to transition to another job a little later on. In fact, each of us needs to be prepared to do work that may not yet even exist.

Consequently, for more than 25 years, Shepherd has offered an innovative interdisciplinary, internship-based curriculum that complements any career path — in health care, law, education, business, and beyond.

Life is, however, about more than a job. And, therefore, so is Shepherd.

*Civic Responsibility:* Life is also about learning to live well with others. In the hours — not to mention the years — before and after work, we play our parts in our communities. The question is: Do we have the skills, insights, and dispositions to play those parts well?

Consequently, for more than 25 years, the Shepherd Program has offered courses and community-based learning opportunities that foster the art of respect for the dignity of every person.

Contrary to an increasingly popular opinion, thoughtful people can and often do disagree — including about what respect for others requires of us. Why? Sometimes we disagree over the right policy or practice, because we disagree about what *will* happen if it is implemented. Call it a *Prediction Disagreement*.

Other times, we disagree over the right policy or practice, because we disagree about what *should* happen, especially when people’s interests compete for finite attention and resources. Call it a *Prescription Disagreement*.

Consequently, for more than 25 years, Shepherd has invited people with different life paths and perspectives to come together — to research, discuss, and discern how best to respect the dignity of each and every person.

*My Main Point:* We may disagree about what should be done, but there is a BIG difference between disagreeing about *how* to respect each person versus *whether* to do so.

*My Invitation to You:* Join us in Shepherd as we practice and promote the ART OF RESPECT!

— Howard Pickett

*Director of the Shepherd Program*

*Associate Professor of Ethics and Poverty Studies*



# Students' Voices: Academics at W&L

A Shepherd education is rooted in the rich, innovative teaching of Washington and Lee faculty affiliated with the program. Students are encouraged to understand the complex nature of poverty from a host of disciplinary angles. Here, these firsthand accounts provide a window into that learning from the student perspective.



“Students in the Shepherd Program are motivated to apply their skills and knowledge to efforts that impact their communities. In a competitive academic environment where students are so often driven by grades and a desire to achieve their individual goals, I have been continuously impressed by Shepherd students who see their involvement in the program as a foundation to effect real positive change in the world. Their enthusiasm inspires me to work harder, to do all that I can to help prepare them for a world they are so eager to improve.

— *Professor Alexander C. Sutton, Sociology*



**POL 388**  
**“The Architecture of Urban Community”**  
*By Joaquin Villagran-Hernandez '26*

I took POL 388, The Architecture of Urban Community, with professor (Robin) LeBlanc because I was interested in examining how the physical development of communities affects the political life of its residents. In this seminar, we examined how urban spaces can promote and hinder inclusion, inequalities, and democracy among citizens. Throughout the semester, we examined the urban spaces of multiple cities from Jane Jacobs' perspective of American cities in her book, “The Death and Life of Great American Cities;” analyzed Italian cities like Genova, which suffered an economic decline in the 1970s, followed by a new form of urban life renewal; and studied the balance between Tokyo's bottom-up emergent urbanism and the intimate communal life.

The class was set up in a way that allowed for self exploration of the topic. Class discussions were always filled with conversation about our readings, personal experiences and observations of cities and urban spaces. Throughout the semester, we worked on developing independent research questions on urban spaces and writing a seminar paper. My background and experiences brought me to examine the Tren Maya project, a major infrastructural project in Southern Mexico, and the impact its development would have on Indigenous communities throughout the region.

My curiosity about Indigenous rights and Latin American politics grew after this course and the seminar paper, which I will consider this fall semester when studying abroad in Mexico to research the politics and economics of border policy and migration. That is the beauty of Shepherd courses: They allow students to delve into the topics they are most interested in, take the coursework outside the classroom, and apply it to first-hand lived experiences. ■



**HIST 275**  
**“African Women in Comparative Perspective”**  
*By Posi Oluwakuyide '24*

As an economics major, I felt like I was missing a deeper understanding of social and historical contexts that have shaped economic realities in Africa. Because I took HIST 275 African Women in Comparative Perspective, I was able to gain valuable insights into the ways that colonialism, patriarchy, and economic exploitation have marginalized African women.

One of the most impactful lessons was learning to deconstruct paradigms of race, gender, ethnicity, and religion. The course highlighted how Western research often distorted and inaccurately represented the cultures, social formations, and economies of African kingdoms. We examined how colonial powers systematically devalued and repressed African women's roles, imposing Western ideals of gender and domesticity that significantly altered their social status and economic participation. This historical perspective emphasizes the importance of centering Indigenous lives, perspectives, and research in the discourse, challenging the one-dimensional portrayal of African societies and recognizing the complexities and agency of African women throughout history.

Race has always been the center of my academic and extracurricular explorations. I helped curate an art exhibit that used depictions of Black hair through different mediums to tell stories about the interconnectedness of Black history and present-day Black realities, which taught me the ways that lack of cultural awareness creates racialized experiences. I wrote my capstone on racial discrimination in the criminal justice system and interned with USAID to research the importance of diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives in the responses to humanitarian disasters. This class has added to those experiences by deepening my understanding of the systemic nature of global inequality, which has further impassioned me to pursue a career dedicated to advocating for social justice and equitable economic development on a global scale. ■



**PHIL 242**  
**“Social Inequality and Fair Opportunity”**  
*By Stella Ewald '27*

*Read that title again.*

SOCIAL Inequality and Fair Opportunity. Dr. (Melina) Bell's course examined multiple facets of inequality, but the most exciting part of the class was that we looked at these issues through a social lens. When working in community service, I sometimes feel that buzzwords hold more space than stakeholders. We spend so much time talking about institutional and structural inequality that these words can lose their value. Theorizing subjects that can be simplified to basic human rights feels stagnant and performative.

Spending a semester looking at the social factors that contribute to inequality felt like a tenable, action-driven approach to community-based social change. We combed over theories of John Rawls, Martha Nussbaum, and Amartya Sen. We read Steinberg's “The Ethnic Myth” and “The New Jim Crow” by Michelle Alexander and discussed current events as they related to course content. In general, the course provided a space for people of varying political and social viewpoints to discuss the reality of social issues.

PHIL 242 inspired me to focus my work in the Lexington community on relationships. Every day, W&L students create their own perception of the county, and every day, Lexington's perception of W&L as an institution is open to reshaping. Each small interaction has the potential to build respect and understanding and deepen empathy. ■

# COURSEWORK FOR CREDIT

<i>Course</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Faculty</i>
BIOL 275	Food for Thought	Blythe
BUS 381	Social Entrepreneurship	Landry
BUS 390C	Sustainable Development & Social Entrepreneurship: Cuba, 21st C.	Casey
CBL 100	Introduction to Community-Based Learning	Goluboff
CBSC 269	Stereotyping, Prejudice, and Discrimination	Woodzicka
AFCA/ENGL 266	Introduction to African American Literature	Millan
ECON 235	Economics of Social Issues	Goldsmith
ECON 236	Economics of Education	Smith
ECON 241	Economics of War and Peace	Silwal
ECON 250	Public Finance and Public Policy	Naven and Guse
ECON 280	Development Economics	Casey
ECON 295A	Economy of Latin America	Alvarez
ECON 376	Health: A Social Science Exploration	Blunch
ECON 377	Global Public Health	Blunch
EDUC 200	Foundation of Education	Sigler
EDUC 230	Educating Citizens for Democracy	Moffa
ENG 294C	Caribbean Women Responding to Racism	Chowdhury
ENG 361	Native American Literatures	Gray
ENGL 244	Health, Care, and Compassion on Stage and Screen	Pickett
ENGL 260	Literary Approaches to Poverty	Chowdhury
ENGL 293N	Topics: Native American Visual Culture	Gray
ENGL 295D	Black Feminist Literature and Theory	Chowdhury
ENGL 295E	Spring Term Seminar: Native American Film	Gray
ENGL 366	African-American Literature	Millan
ENGL 393C	In the Shadow of the Nineteenth Century	Millan
ENGL 395E	Topics: Gender in Modern South Asia	Chowdhury
HIST 229	History of Poverty in Britain, from the Tudors to the Tories	Brock
HIST 259	History of the African-American People to 1877	Dennie
HIST 261	Women and Slavery in the Black Atlantic	Dennie
HIST 275	African Women in Comparative Perspective	Ballah
HIST 395E	Educating Otherness	Green
JOUR 268	News Media, Race and Ethnicity	Colón
JOUR 303	Impact of the Press and Public on Justice	Locy
PHIL 253	Philosophy of Race	Sun
PHIL 260	Political Philosophy: The Social Contract	Taylor
PHIL 296E	Seminar: Philosophy of Immigration	Lamb

PHIL 296I	Seminar: Images of Justice	Levit Ades
PHIL 345	Medical Ethics	Taylor
PHIL/POV 247	Medicine, Research, and Poverty	Taylor
PHIL/WGSS 242	Social Inequality and Fair Opportunity	Bell
POL 232	Public Policy	Harris
POL 250	Race and Equality	Morel
POL 294A	Food Policy	Harris
POL 380D	Seminar: Immigration Attitudes	Ponce de Leon
POL 388	Architecture of Urban Community	LeBlanc
POV 101	Poverty: An Interdisciplinary Introduction	Pickett, Diette, and Conley
POV 102	Intro to Community-Based Poverty Studies	Charley and Davidson
POV 192	Blue Ridge Mile Training	Elrod
POV 193	Blue Ridge Mile Clinic	Elrod
POV 197	Bonner Program	Charley
POV 245	Poverty, Dignity, and Human Rights	Pickett
POV 295	Child Abuse and Neglect	Hammond
POV 423	Poverty: A Research Seminar	Goldsmith and Pickett
POV 491	Senior Seminar: Uncertainty	Eastwood and Pickett
REL 220	Whose Law? Pluralism, Conflict, and Justice	Lubin
SOAN 227	What is Power	Perez
SOAN 228	Race and Ethnic Relations	Chin
SOAN 239	Collective Mem: Society, Culture, Identity and Power	Bell
SOAN 259	Global Urban Sociology	Perez
SOAN 263	Poverty and Marginality in the Americas	Perez
SOAN 265	Exploring Social Networks	Eastwood
SOAN 271	Introduction to Criminology	Cataldi
SOAN 276	Art and Science of Survey Research	Jasiewicz
SOAN 278	Introduction to Medical Sociology	Chin
SOAN 290C	Producing Culture from the Margins	Sutton
SOAN 290E	(de)Constructing Disability in the U.S.	Sutton
SOAN 290F	Topic: Social Inequality in American Cinema	Sutton
SOAN 291Q	Topic: Global Migration	Oubou
SOAN/POV 253	Narrating Culture, Society, and Identity	Goluboff
SPAN 265	Rise Up! Indigenous Poetry and Resistance	Michelson
SPAN 347	Poetry and Power	Michelson

## CAPSTONES

**P. Barnes '25**

Why Do We Not Care About Who We Will Be: Ageism, Elderly Poverty, and Healthcare

**Christian Basnight '24**

Bridging the Gap: Addressing the Generational Wealth Disparities Harming African Americans

**Eric Bazile '25**

The Poor Tax: Payday Lending in America

**Georgia Bernbaum '25**

Welfare At Its Worst: The Ways in Which TANF Disadvantages Domestic Violence Victims

**Anna Bosking '24**

Conditional Cash Transfers and Climate-Induced Migration in Colombia

**Alex Bradham '24**

A Public Health Crisis Hidden in Plain Sight: Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and How We Can Prevent Them

**Lawson Brantley '24**

A Polluted Life: Analysis of the Harms in, Social Structures of, and Solutions for Cancer Alley

**Mason Davis '24**

Speaking Without Understanding: Populations with Limited English Proficiency Facing Barriers in the U.S. Healthcare System

**Alina de Zoysa '25**

Sculpting Success: The Impact of Caring Adult Relationships on Student Achievement and Well-Being

**Lucy Donahue '24**

Rural Recovery Residences: the Power of Hope, Community, and Gossip

**Allie Doyle '24**

Homeless and Pregnant: Consequences and Ways Forward

**Cami Fischmann '24**

Trust: a Moderator of Language Barriers and Health Outcomes

**Sarah Footer '24\***

Perspectives on Climate Change in French Polynesia and What They Can Teach Us About Effective and Considerate Mitigation and Adaptation Strategies

**Natalie Gresham '24**

The Future of Diabetes Care and Prevention: A Role for Creativity and Hope in Policy Proposals

**Andrew Harrell '24**

Public Defense: A System of Inequalities

**Leyla Hatfield '24**

From Despair to Dignity: Understanding and Addressing the Substance Use Disorder and Mental Health Crises in America

**Kelly Hayes '24**

More Morality: K-12 Moral Education in the Modern United States

**Lauren Hollis '25**

Depression as Disability: A Capabilities Approach to Understanding the Depth of Depression's Impact and its Bidirectional Relationship with Poverty

**Jana Hulsey '25**

Permanent Punishment: The Price of Legal Financial Obligations

**Brynn Martinson '24**

Expanding Medicaid Coverage and Alleviating Barriers to Medicaid Access to Mitigate Harms Posed on Low-Income Individuals without Healthcare

**Elise Molinaro '24\***

The Buena Vista Community Garden: A Site for Investment in Community, Education, and a Local Food System

**Andrew Morse '24\***

How Education Fosters Autonomy for Democratic Participation

**Kate Nelson '24**

No One Should Be Given a Price: Forced Prostitution of Women and Girls in the United States

**Jessica Pachuca '25**

Break the Barrier: Addressing Language Barriers for English Language Learners in Education

**Jordynn Palethorpe '24\***

Behind Prison Walls: Exploring Hierarchies, Abuse, and Identity Negotiations in the Carceral System

**Christian Pinto '24\***

Healthy Relationships: Identifying and Analyzing the Drawbacks of Common Assumptions in Heteronormative Relationships

**Derek Qu '24\***

Summer Camp: A Series of Poems

**Sydney Smith '24**

New Standards of Care in an Aging Population

**Kamron Spivey '24**

The Dignity of Diaspora: How Israeli and Palestinian Dispersal Has Harmed Human Capabilities

**Gretta Syrett '24**

A Reflection on Maternal and Infant Mortality Rates in the United States

**Julia Thomson '24**

Effects of Climate Change and Lack of Electricity on Human Capabilities in East Africa

**Allyssa Utecht '24**

Vacant Lots to Thriving Communities: Leveraging Built Environment Interventions to Structurally Address Firearm Violence in Philadelphia

**Jeniffer Ventura '25**

Empowering Change: Tenant Association and Undocumented Immigrant Housing Rights

**Berkeley Wall '24\***

Against the Grain: A Global Agricultural Commodity Trade Network Analysis During the COVID-19 Pandemic

**Trip Wright '25\***

Unveiling Racial Disparities in Public Transportation Connectivity: An Analysis of Neighborhoods in Washington D.C.

W&L President William Dudley, Stacy McLoughlin Taylor '02, Claiborne Taylor '02, Eddie Nabors, Doris Nabors, Katie Yurechko '24, Jenny Sproul Davidson '08 and Lee Lester '02 celebrated Jonathan Nabors '02 with the rededication of his plaque on March 8 outside of Mattingly House.



# 25 Years of Service

By Laura Lemon

For 25 years, Eddie Nabors and his wife, Doris, have traveled to Washington and Lee from Birmingham, Alabama, to honor their late son, Jonathan Nabors '02, on Nabors Service Day. On March 8, the day before its 25th anniversary, Jonathan's memorial plaque was rededicated next to Mattingly House, and Eddie knew exactly what he wanted to share with the crowd.

"W&L is exactly the right place to memorialize him," Eddie said. "He loved this place more than I can explain to you. After a college visit tour during his junior year of high school, he knew this was where he belonged; this was it."

Jonathan and his sister, Leah, died on Jan. 3, 1999, in a car accident on their way to campus following winter break. The class of 2002 organized the first Nabors Service Day in 1999 to honor Jonathan's memory and continue his legacy of building community.

"He was just such a bright light, so community-oriented and would draw people in," said Stacy McLoughlin Taylor '02. "That spirit of wanting to be with others, looking out for others and making sure that everyone around him just felt good — I think [creating a service day] just spoke to his character."

Over 170 first-year students participated on that inaugural day, helping at Rockbridge Area Relief Association (RARA), Yellow Brick Road Early Learning Center, Boxerwood Gardens and a Big Buddy/Little Buddy field day.

"It was a hard, long winter," Claiborne Taylor '02 said. "And it just felt to me like spring personified — like turning a corner, being together and doing something meaningful."

The student body decided to put forth a continual effort of service that extended beyond one day, and the following fall, the Nabors Service Day transformed into the Nabors Service League (NSL).

In the 25 years since, NSL has joined together thousands of students in their passion for community engagement. NSL is now organized into four committees: Good Nabors, educational programming, alternative breaks, and local service.

Good Nabors, a first-year cohort, was established in 2019 under NSL to offer a more defined pathway to service for incoming first-years. The program also helps new students connect to like-minded individuals before they even attend their first class.

The Educational Programming Committee plans events and panels where alumni speak on their engagement with service. The Alternative Breaks Committee organizes trips beyond Rockbridge County where students can assist local agencies in other communities. NSL's Local Service Committee conducts outreach to area organizations to determine their volunteer needs and connect students to local volunteer opportunities.

NSL President Katie Yurechko '24 was thankful to be able to utilize her computer science major and explore her passion for technology and addressing social injustice, culminating in a tech equity series.

"Nabors Service League has really allowed me to take that passion and turn it into something that's not just a little thing that I worked through in my mind, but it's something that's really impactful for the community," Yurechko said.

In the decades that have followed their graduation, Jonathan's classmates continue to be amazed by the powerful ways their friend still brings people together and the ways his character, embodied in NSL, impacts students who never even met him. ■

To read the full article online, go to [columns.wlu.edu](https://columns.wlu.edu).

# VOLUNTEER VENTURE

Volunteer Venture (VV) is a service-learning Leading Edge program for incoming students. Sponsored by the Shepherd Program, VV allows participants to build meaningful relationships and explore issues related to poverty, injustice, and opportunity through service with community-based agencies, guest speakers, and group discussions related to a thematic issue. Topics for the 2023 experience included food and housing insecurity, law and justice, and the social determinants of health. ■

7 Trips | 7 Cities | 35 Peer Leaders | 109 First-Year Participants



The VV Charlotte Public Health trip served at Loaves & Fishes, an organization that provides groceries for neighbors in need.



Houston Johnson '27 and Makane Kane '27 work at Rockbridge Area Habitat for Humanity on the VV Lexington trip.



Claude Morris '27, Kayla Richardson '27 and Carl Rifino '27 organize bookshelves on the VV Greensboro trip.

## Service.

“ I really enjoyed seeing how many of the organizations worked together to form a community that directly assisted those at a disadvantage. I had never realized that these organizations worked together so closely. I had always thought that these organizations were completely separate, but it showed me that it takes a well-run machine to help so many people in the community.

— VV 2023 Trip Participant

## Learning.

“ On my VV trip I learned how dignity matters in every aspect of one's life. I also learned not to judge people based on the background or environment because we don't know what the person has gone through.

— VV 2023 Trip Participant

## Community.

“ The most valuable aspect of my VV experience was definitely the group reflections at the end of the day. These debriefs not only helped my group become closer but also allowed us to meld together our ideas, thoughts, and lived experiences into one.

— VV 2023 Trip Participant

# BONNER

W&L's Bonner Program is an initiative of the Corella and Bertram F. Bonner Foundation and the Shepherd Program. Bonner Scholars are committed to working alongside communities to develop as professional and civic leaders, foster relationships, cultivate community, and work to create increasingly compassionate systems.

Bonners serve in internship-style community partnerships for 8-10 hours per week throughout their time as a student and complete at least one summer of service. In addition to the professional development offered by these opportunities, students participate in a credit-bearing academic developmental model that is rooted in the poverty and inequality studies curriculum of The Shepherd Program. Critical and creative reflection, paired with trans-disciplinary approaches to complex social issues, creates a rich landscape for exploring the problems associated with poverty and inequality and for developing a purposeful civic life. ■



Morgan Schuckman '27 and Adhip Adhikari '27 serve dinner at Rockbridge Connect and Nourish (CAN).

## Community Impact.

“ Serving with the Connect and Nourish (CAN) program has given me the unique opportunity to work with members of the community who are passionate about service and provide guests with W&L hospitality. CAN is a community-building experience that involves meeting people where they are across Rockbridge County and connecting people over fresh, free, catered meals. There is nothing I look forward to more on Wednesday evenings than traveling off campus with fellow W&L volunteers to serve and unify communities, while connecting people to services and resources.

— Morgan Schuckman '27

## Bonner Programming.

“ My involvement with the Bonner Program has had such a profound impact on me over the past four years. This past year, I have been interning at the Community Foundation for Rockbridge, Bath and Allegheny through Bonner. In this role, I have had the opportunity to write the resident and staff policy booklets for Rockbridge Recovery's HOPE House, the region's first transitional sober living home. This experience has taught me the importance of radical respect, dignity, and empathy as well as provided me with a new skill set through the policy creation process. Through this role, I have been exposed to new career opportunities in the nonprofit space. This has been a full-circle experience for me being able to combine my interest in community engagement and nonprofit work, fostered by the Shepherd Program, with my coursework and professional interest in accounting and finance. I am extremely grateful to have had this experience and immerse myself in the Rockbridge community.

— Lucy Donahue '24



Lucy Donahue '24 gives her Senior Presentation of Learning – a cornerstone activity of the Bonner Program.

## Bonner Highlights.

This Winter Term, students in the Bonner Program met for a five-session series focusing on reflection in community-based learning. The series examined strategies for respectful observation, metacognitive approaches to responsible storytelling, and effective facilitation strategies. In each session, students experienced a combination of theory-based lectures and group discussions based on the issue area around which they serve.

Students engage in group discussion at Bonner reflection series meeting.



community engagement

# CAMPUS KITCHEN

The mission of the Campus Kitchen at Washington and Lee (CKWL) is to strengthen bodies, empower minds, and build communities through food. Student leaders coordinate food preparation and delivery logistics, attend events and discussions, and work with staff to facilitate financial stewardship and development for the organization. ■



Student Volunteers prepare produce for Campus Kitchen meals during Volunteer Venture 2023.



Evan Clark '26 runs in the Campus Kitchen Pieve-K Fundraiser during the annual Turkeypalooza event.

## Strengthening Bodies.

At CKWL, we promote nutrition and address the issues of food waste and food insecurity in Lexington and Rockbridge County. We work toward this by transforming food that would otherwise go to waste into balanced meals for low-income members of the community as well as collaborating with community organizations to provide groceries through our Mobile Food Pantry, Backpack and Produce Delivery Programs.

- Meals Delivered: 11,646
- Nutrition Education Instructional Hours: 3,903 hours
- Pounds of Groceries Distributed: 34,568
- Backpacks: 20,609

## Empowering Minds: Just Food.

This year, the Campus Kitchen developed student understanding of the context in which food insecurity and food waste developed, and this public event series engaged participants beyond the Campus Kitchen Leadership Team. By cultivating an understanding of the broader system in which food insecurity persists, the Campus Kitchen fosters students' abilities to identify the root of the issues they are passionate about addressing and encourages them to think beyond the meals they provide to the ways in which we can all work to ensure equitable access to food in the future.

- Total Unique Event Attendees: 213
- Average Event Attendance: 50 people

## Building Community.

We collaborate with other student organizations at W&L and the wider Rockbridge County in joint events around relevant topics to the food system. During students' time with CKWL, they develop meaningful relationships with clients that go beyond service. Our students learn to think critically about the variety of ways that they can have a lasting impact within our community by supporting existing organizations and projects.

- Volunteer Hours: 3,434
- #HungerFighters Cohort Members: 20
- Campus Kitchen Leadership Team Members: 35

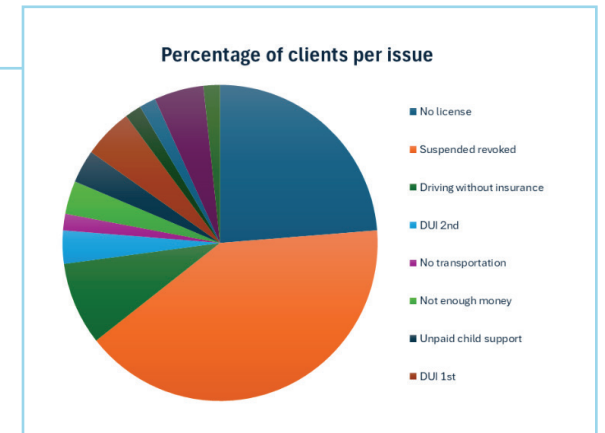


# BLUE RIDGE MILE

The Blue Ridge Mile at Washington and Lee University, established in 2020, assists clients in acquiring or maintaining a driver's license, which is often complicated due to confusing rules, challenges with obtaining the required legal documents, or lack of sufficient guidance. BRM is operated by students and strives to aid clients throughout the year. Since last year, the Blue Ridge Mile Clinic has grown from 12 to 16 advocates. We will begin recruiting and onboarding additional advocates at the beginning of 2025. ■

## Clinic.

Blue Ridge Mile served 39 clients this year. Client referral reasons include: driving on a revoked/suspended license, having no license at all, unpaid child support, DUI 1 and 2, no insurance, no money for reinstatement, and no transportation to or from work. The most common reasons for referral were having no license or driving on a revoked/suspended license, as displayed by the graph below. Most Blue Ridge Mile clients request services after being stopped for having a suspended license.



Students visited the General Assembly in Richmond, Virginia.

## Student Organization.

The Blue Ridge Mile hosted a trip to Richmond, Virginia, which was attended by several advocates after the end of the General Assembly's legislative session to tour the Capitol and the General Assembly Building. The trip was organized and supported by Drive-to-Work CEO Sarah Wilson.

Campus activities included speaker David Pina from Chainless Change, who is dedicated to ending mass incarceration by offering reentry support to individuals and communities negatively impacted by the carceral system; a virtual talk hosted by author of "Not a Crime to be Poor" and Georgetown Law professor Peter Edelman, who has practiced law and conducted research at the intersection of poverty and the American criminal legal system; and a screening of "Being Michelle," a powerful film documenting the story of a deaf woman with autism who survived incarceration and abuse and now uses her art to cope with her trauma and recover from her past.

## Research & Policy.

With the support of faculty and community partners, Blue Ridge Mile developed a survey to assess defendant beliefs and barriers related to their driving privileges. This survey aims to inform judges, Drive-To-Work, the DMV, and the Virginia General Assembly about ways to improve the relicensing process.



Blue Ridge Mile advocates Brendan Smith '24, Shanna Kim '24, and Lawson Brantley '24 pose with advisor Fran Elrod.

# NABORS SERVICE LEAGUE

The Nabors Service League, in collaboration with community-based agencies, connects students with opportunities to learn, serve, and reflect on issues of poverty and justice. The student leadership team is comprised of four committees: Local Service, Educational Programming, Alternative Breaks, and Good Nabors Mentorship. The Good Nabors program provides a first-year cohort of students a structure for community engagement, reflection, and learning. ■

## Policy in Action.

NSL's educational series focused on policy in action, featuring Avani Kashyap '25 at the kickoff. Alumni speakers on campus included Charles Allen '99, Elizabeth Mugo '19, Madison Sanders '16, and Shiri Yadlin '12. Students also zoomed with Liz Cresswell '09 and Henri Hammond-Paul '12 about climate policy and discussed education policy with Rebecca Etzel '10, Samara Gibbs '10, and Melissa Poorman '08.



Clara Oh '27 and Majo Pérez '27 converse during the Policy in Action series kickoff.



NSL students Debora Abera '27, MaKane Kane '27, Alicia Gonzalez '27, Riley Mitchelson '27, Gina Kuah '27, and Cece Eklum '26 volunteer at Beds for Kids on the Washington Break trip to Charlotte, NC.

## Good Nabors.

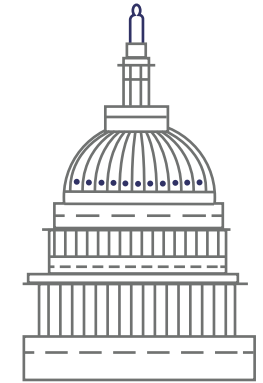
Through the Good Nabors program, NSL offers the opportunity for first-year students to intentionally commit to service in the Rockbridge community and learn and reflect on critical issues related to poverty and inequality with peers and peer mentors.



Members of the Good Nabors cohort join NSL leaders and Shepherd staff to march in the local MLK Day Parade.



Touring the Wilson Building with D.C. Councilmember Charles Allen '99



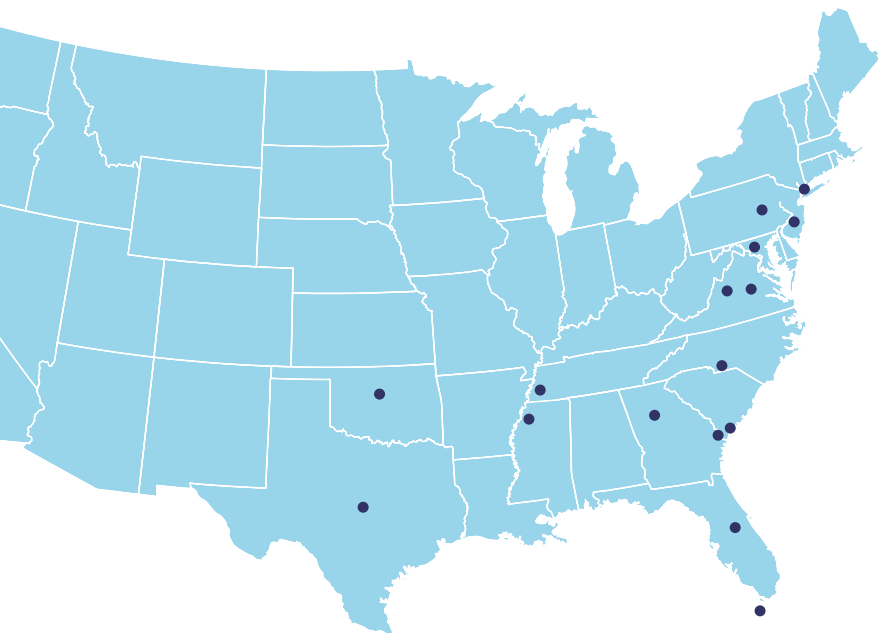
# D.C. Shepherd Careers Trip.

The Shepherd Program hosts an annual trip to Washington, D.C., for students to meet Shepherd alumni and learn from their career experience. The 2024 trip featured visits with Charles Allen '99, George Foote '70, Elizabeth Mugo '19, Jake Struebing '14, and Shiri Yadlin '12, followed by an alumni dinner. ■



Students and alumni visit over a pizza dinner.





# SHEPHERD INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

Number of participants: 46

We provide opportunities for students to understand the causes and consequences of poverty and inequality in ways that respect the humanity of all people through eight-week summer internships. While students approach the experience with an eye toward professional development, it is equally important for them to understand that important lessons are learned outside the internship experience and will come in ways they least expect.

Shepherd internships are located in various urban and rural sites in the United States and globally, with a focus on education, health care, legal services, housing, hunger, social and economic needs, and community-building efforts.

Many W&L students intern through the Shepherd Higher Education Consortium on Poverty (SHECP). Additionally, students support organizations in the Lexington area, participate in international internship programs, and propose their own internships in communities all over the United States. ■

## LeAnna Baker '26

Susquehanna Legal Aid for Adults and Youth (SLAAY) is a legal aid organization and low-income tax clinic seeking to provide legal services and education to residents of North Central Pennsylvania. As a case worker and intern this summer, I was engaged with various tasks and projects for both SLAAY and the community revitalization initiatives in Shamokin. I had the opportunity to take part in one-on-one client interactions, develop legal and life skills lessons, work on developing SLAAY's brand as a nonprofit, create marketing materials, redesign the organization's website, conduct a community needs assessment, and partner with the Shamokin Area Housing Authority to supply much-needed resources to the residents. I have also had the opportunity to meet with various passionate Shamokin community members involved in the city's economic and social development. This internship has granted me multiple experiences likely not offered at a larger, for-profit law firm, such

as meeting the district bankruptcy judge in Harrisburg or helping clients complete legal documents one-on-one.

The various experiences and workplace exposure I have taken part in throughout the course of this summer has been beneficial in helping me discern potential career paths, expand my understanding of the causes and consequences of poverty and inequality, and increase my social communication skills. My time taking part in a SHECP internship has equipped me with skills and strategies I will utilize throughout the rest of my professional career and personal life. The emotionally demanding work has prompted me to develop various self-care techniques and reflection strategies that have allowed me to understand myself better and flourish as an entire person. In addition, my interactions have prompted increased questions about the intersection of religious identity and social impact work. ■



*Shamokin, Pennsylvania*  
SHECP

## Joaquin Villagran-Hernandez '26

Throughout the summer, I had the opportunity to intern with Judge Eannace and Judge Caldwell in the Utica City Court and the Oneida County Court in Central New York. From this experience, I observed the different problem-solving courts, including the Mental Health Court, Family Treatment Court, Empowerment Court, and Drug Court. At the end of my summer in Utica, I presented a paper to Judge Ralph J. Eannace, Jr. about what I learned from observing and working alongside him that could be implemented to make the court program more effective.

My internship in the two different courts allowed me to look into what working in the court system entails. I spoke with other judges and attorneys who gave me a perspective on law school and suggested what I could do to prepare myself. This internship was crucial for me to make those connections and better understand what I want to accomplish after graduating from Washington and Lee. Returning to campus, I hope to bring the different perspectives and ideas I gained from the courts in Oneida County into my work in the Rockbridge area with the Blue Ridge Mile Clinic. ■



*Utica, New York*  
SHECP

## Tetiana "Tania" Kozachanska '26

Brave to Rebuild, the organization where I interned, focuses on helping families in Ukraine whose houses were destroyed due to the Russian invasion in 2022. I coordinate the project called "Brave Bikes." We transfer used bicycles from Europe to Kyiv, repair them, and send them to the communities in recently de-occupied territories. Additionally, I help organize events for the Brave to Rebuild community and foreigners who volunteer with us. Each weekend, I join the efforts of dismantling rubble in the Kyiv region. This internship is of special significance to me because I feel responsible for

acting and providing relief to those affected by unjust violence in my native Ukraine. Being able to intern at Brave to Rebuild brings me closer to achieving my dream of starting my own NGO. I have become much more aware of the current Ukrainian environment and how to navigate work during the full-scale war. I am sure this will help me apply the knowledge gained from the Poverty and Human Capabilities Studies program. I am sincerely grateful for the unwavering support of the faculty and donors, whose belief in me and this cause made my internship possible this summer! ■



*Kyiv, Ukraine*

# 2023 INTERNSHIPS

<i>Student</i>	<i>Internship Partner</i>	<i>Location</i>
Sylvia Agatako	Habitat for Humanity	Lexington, VA
LeAnna Baker	Susquehanna Legal Aid for Adults and Youth (SLAAY)*	Susquehanna, PA
Daisy Barron	CKWL	Lexington, VA
Stephanie Boktor	Good Samaritan Health Center*	Atlanta, GA
Alex Bradham	Project Horizon	Lexington, VA
Sai Chebrolu	Brunswick Public Defender*	Brunswick, GA
Adam Cline	Harvard Legal Aid Bureau	Cambridge, MA
Autumn Crawford	Asylee Women Enterprise*	Baltimore, MD
Cassandra Dalton	Legal Aid of West VA*	Charleston, WV
Janae Darby	Virginia Incubator Association	Buena Vista, VA
Alina de Zoysa	Times Square Alliance	New York, NY
Dev Maniar	ConnectionsPlus Healthcare + Hospice	Lexington, VA
Eleni Filley	Central Virginia Legal Aid Farmworkers Program	Richmond, VA
Cami Fischmann	Health Brigade*	Richmond, VA
Nina Gagnon	Staunton Public Defenders Office	Staunton, VA
Joanna Guevara-Hernandez	CRIT, Fundación Teletón	Merida, Mexico
Dani Hackman	YMCA	Lexington, VA
Maddy Hayes	Americana World Community Center*	Louisville, KY
Riho Iijima	Rockbridge Area Relief Association	Lexington, VA
Tim Johns	Habitat for Humanity	Lexington, VA
Tetiana Kozachanska	Brave to Rebuild	Kyiv, Ukraine
Isabel Lourie	CKWL	Lexington, VA
Amelia Macholz	Feeding Chittenden*	Burlington, VT
Zainab Madan	Good Hope Support Organization	Moshi, Tanzania
Gabe Miller	National Alliance to End Homelessness	Washington, D.C.
Ana Montano Martinez	Rockbridge Area Relief Association	Lexington, VA
Linda Margaret Morse	City of Lexington Office on Youth	Lexington, VA
Lizzy Nguyen	Integrated Community Alternatives Network (ICAN)*	Utica, NY
Vishal Pal	YMCA*	Charleston, WV
Charlotte Peete	CKWL	Lexington, VA
Molly Pennisi	CKWL	Lexington, VA
Daniel Reiter	STAR Program	Lexington, VA
Kat Repka	STAR Program	Lexington, VA
Rachel Romano	CASA of Cape May and Atlantic Counties	Somors Point, NJ
Kendall Schlueter	HRAE (Hospital)	Merida, Mexico
Emma Scott	Guilford County Office of PD*	Greensboro, NC
Rachel Silver	Legal Services of Alabama and Atlanta Legal Aid	Tuscaloosa, AL & Lawrenceville, GA

## *Internships Continued...*

Alec Sirois	YMCA STEM Program	Denver, CO
Sydney Smith	REAL LIFE*	Richmond, VA
Patrick Solcher	United Way of the Coastal Empire*	Savannah, GA
Parker Sparks	STAR Program	Lexington, VA
Jaeya Taxali	Pueblos of Santo Domingo and Cochiti	Sante Fe, NM
Aishwarya Vemagiri	ConnectionsPlus Healthcare + Hospice	Lexington, VA
Joaquin Villagran-Hernandez	Utica Court System*	Utica, NY
Trip Wright	D.C. City Council	Washington, D.C.
Hamza Zia	Project For Peace: Khwaja Siras	Pakistan

*\*Indicates SHECP Internship*

## SHEPHERD ALUMNI IN ACTION

The Shepherd Alumni in Action event, held in October, featured a Q&A with Washington, D.C. Ward 6 Councilmember Charles Allen '99 and three alumni panels: Grad School & Gap Years; Medicine & Public Health; and Research & Policy. The summit also featured opportunities for personal connection between students and alumni. ■



Gabe Miller '25 and Avani Kashyap '25 moderated a Q&A with D.C. Councilmember Charles Allen '99



Moderated by Katie Yurechko '24 and Alina de Zoysa '25, the Research & Policy panel featured Elizabeth Mugo '19, Madison Sanders '16, and Shiri Yadlin '12.



George Foote '71 met with Darcy Leight '27 and Elizabeth Barr '27.

*mentorship programs*

# SHEPHERD ALUMNI MENTORS

Shepherd is—and always has been—special because of the people involved! The connections and community here are invaluable to what we do and why we do it. In the Shepherd Alumni Mentor Program, our goal is to make and maintain meaningful connections that provide encouragement, advice, opportunities, and enjoyment, especially during life’s transitions from college to career, from one career to another, and beyond. The program creates a supportive community of alumni and community partners with a shared interest in living out the Shepherd mission through their professional and civic lives. ■

*Shepherd Alumni Mentors*

*Shepherd Graduates*

Chris Washnock '12	Anna Bosking
Maisie Osteen '14L	Lawson Brantley
Elsbeth Suber '21	Emma Conover
James Ricks '21	Mason Davis
Kelli Jarrell '12	Anna Cami Fischmann
Melissa Medeiros '09	Sarah Footer
Samara Gibbs '10	Kelly Hayes
Tyra Barrett '18	Jordan Jontz
Kerriann Shabanowitz '13, '16L	Shanna Kim
Elizabeth Mugo '19	Isabel Lourie
Madison Sanders '16	Elise Molinaro
Morten Wendelbo '12	Ayomiposi Oluwakuyide
Kathryn Marsh-Soloway '13	Jordynn Palethorpe
Nicole Gunaswansa '14	Elizabeth Sjovold
Alvin Thomas '14	Sydney Smith
David Thomas '15	Kamron Spivey
Hannah Witherell '20	Gretta Syrett



## COMMENCEMENT 2024



Top: Graduating members of W&L's Campus Kitchen Leadership Team pose with coordinator Ryan Brink '18. Above left: Students and guests visit with the Shepherd team over breakfast before commencement. Above right: Shepherd student Katie Yurechko '24 receives the Algernon Sydney Sullivan Award for excellence of character and service to humanity from President William C. Dudley before Baccalaureate 2024.

# SHEPHERD CORE MEMBERS



**Melina Bell**  
Professor of Philosophy and Law



**Ryan Brink**  
Assistant Director  
Campus Kitchen Coordinator



**Marisa Charley**  
Associate Director  
Bonner Program Director  
Instructor of Poverty Studies



**Jenny Davidson**  
Associate Director  
Instructor of Poverty Studies



**Jon Eastwood**  
Professor of Sociology



**Fran Elrod**  
Associate Director  
Instructor of Poverty Studies



**Art Goldsmith**  
Jackson T. Stephens Professor of Economics



**Joseph Guse**  
Professor of Economics



**Molly Michelmore**  
Professor of History



**Karla Murdock**  
Jo M. and James M. Ballengee Professor of  
Cognitive and Behavioral Science



**Marcos Perez**  
Associate Professor of Sociology



**Howard Pickett**  
Director of the Shepherd Program; Associate  
Professor of Ethics and Poverty Studies



**Katie Shester**  
Professor of Economics



**Alexander C. Sutton**  
Assistant Professor of Sociology



**Erin Taylor**  
Associate Professor of Philosophy



**Candice Robinson**  
Assistant Professor of Sociology

*Welcome Candice Robinson,  
Assistant Professor of Sociology!*

# ADVISORY BOARD

**Charles Allen '99 (2025)**  
Washington, D.C.

**Cynthia Cheatham '07 (2024)**  
Washington, D.C.

**Bethlehem Dammlash '06 (2025)**  
Washington, D.C.

**George Foote '71 (2024)**  
Alexandria, VA

**Leah Gose '15 (2025)**  
Los Angeles, CA

**Mason Grist '18 (2025)**  
Washington, D.C.

**Anjelica Hendricks '15L (2024)**  
Philadelphia, PA

**Kelli Jarrell '12 (2027)**  
Cincinnati, OH

**Melissa Medeiros '09 (2026)**  
Washington, D.C.

**Elizabeth Mugo '19 (2025)**  
Washington, D.C.

**Jamila Seaton '09 (2026)**  
Green Bay, WI

**Kerriann Shabanowitz '13, '16L (2025)**  
Burke, VA

**Sonia Siu '07 (2024) Chair**  
Boston, MA

**Madison Sanders '16 (2027)**  
Athens, GA

**Kiko Spiezio '17 (2027)**  
Boston, MA

**Alvin Thomas '14 (2024)**  
St. Louis, MO

**Christopher Washnock '12 (2026)**  
New York, NY

**Morten Wendelbo '12 (2025)**  
Denmark

**Shiri Yadlin '12 (2024) Chair elect**  
Washington, D.C.

## Ex Officio Members

**Duke Cancelmo '80 \***  
Houston, TX

**Chawne Kimber**  
Dean of the College  
and Professor of Mathematics

**Nancy McIntyre**  
Director of University Academic Development

**John Nolan '70 \***  
Chevy Chase, MD

**Howard Pickett**  
Director of the Shepherd Program;  
Associate Professor of Ethics and Poverty Studies  
Shepherd Program

**Stacy McLoughlin Taylor '02 \***  
Philadelphia, PA

**Eric White '74 \***  
Richmond, VA

**Jonathan Wortham '04 \***  
Atlanta, GA  
*\* Former Board Chair*

## WELCOME INCOMING MEMBERS

*Tyra Barrett '18  
Atlanta, GA*

*Samara Gibbs '10  
Memphis, TN*

*Kelly Nichols '00  
Austin, TX*

*Maisie Osteen '14L  
Richmond, VA*

*Isaac Webb '13  
Washington, D.C.*



Shepherd Advisory Board members met with students during the Shepherd Alumni in Action event.



*First-year students Morgan Schuckman and Stella Ewald represented W&L at the Bonner Program's Summer Learning Institute.*



*Shepherd alumni from the class of 2023 returned to campus to celebrate Will Hawley '24.*



*Jenny Davidson presents Sion Jang '24 with NSL's McLoughlin Award for Volunteerism.*



*Hamza Zia '26 explains what he learned from the Shepherd Internship Program at a poster session in Leyburn Library.*



*Howard Pickett discusses the ethics of poverty alleviation with his poverty class at the labyrinth behind Grace Episcopal Church.*



*Ethan Tai '27, Joaquin Villagran-Hernandez '26, Michelle Morgan '24, Grace Rustay '27, Simi Adeniyi '27, Evan Clark '26, Majo Pérez '27, and Stella Ewald '27 volunteer on a NSL shift with Friends of the Greenwood Cemetery.*