



THE IRON BLADE

SINCE 1955



Ferrum
Folks:
Bobby
Thompson
see page 5

Vol. 55, No. 14

55 Years of Ferrum College News

February 22, 2010

Ferrum professor's Last Lecture topic has roots in childhood concern

Susan M. King
Features Editor

It was 1986 when a fifth grader earned first place in an essay contest with his response to the comment: "Welcome to the Future: It's going to be a great place to be!" This 10-year-old from Emerald, Colorado, is now Ferrum College Associate Professor of Chemistry and Physics Dr. Jason D. Powell.

In his ninth year at Ferrum, Powell is faced with the topic of his Last Lecture, which he will deliver on Mon., Feb. 22, at 7 p.m. in the Panther's Den. The focus of his lecture lies in what he has been telling his students in the last nine years, what he has left out, and what he should be telling them, he says.

One of the topics he refers to is his essay from the fifth grade. "The article acts as the context for my lecture. There is lots of irony," said Powell. Most of the irony stems from the fact that his essay was directed at the year 2010, and where he would be at that time. Although Powell might not be the chief physicist on a project called "Smog Destroy," there are many similarities in his prediction and his reality.

"I don't want to reveal too much about my lecture," Powell said, "but I hope a lot of people can make it and it's worth hearing."

While he is not a chief physicist, Powell is focused on his work in physics. He says his favorite course to teach is Inorganic Chemistry, mostly because it is complicated. "I like to make complicated things simpler," Powell said. He also enjoys being able to work with students one-on-one.

Powell is also Associate Program Director of Ferrum's Water Quality Program, which was formed in 1987 to monitor the water quality of

'We are trying to find the solutions to air pollution'

"Air Pollution in 2010"

I am Dr. Jason D. Powell. I live at an Air Study condo unit and work for the University for National Air Study in Washington, D.C. I am chief physicist working on a project called "Smog Destroy." In Project Smog Destroy we are trying to find the solutions to air pollution. Some of the sources of the pollution are factories, transportation, fireplaces plus many others.

People have reacted to pollution in many ways. For instance, increasing numbers of people suffer from leukemia, asthma and allergies. Also, plants die very fast because of pollution.

There are 10 people working on the project. Most of these people are physicists, professors and teachers who are also worried about pollution and its effect on life on earth.

After thinking for some time, I got the notion that we should use either electrical or solar-powered appliances and vehicles. My first problem is this — "Where do we get all the electrical and solar batteries?"

I decided to first look for electrical sources. I know there is an electrical field around the planet Gigantica. We could send a starship shuttle to Gigantica, funded by the large electrical companies and other interested people, to capture electricity in huge storage batteries. Each home would set up one windmill to generate the family's electric-

ity. The electric companies could supply any additional voltage that the families required. Solar energy is the other good source of clean power. We could ask the government to subsidize our purchases of solar batteries. Any solar-powered appliances or vehicles we have could be outfitted with solar storage units, and when not in use could be collecting and storing their own energy for future use.

After several weeks of looking at the financial aspects of both systems, I decided that both sources would be usable because of their similar cost.

I reported my findings to my team of experts and they approved them unanimously. We drafted a bill to send to the



Congress, and after approval in both Houses it was sent for Presidential approval. This was the big test! The President thought the bill was superb and signed it immediately. He also ordered all conventional cars to be destroyed and replaced by solar-powered cars. The government would pay each owner the worth of the car plus \$200 to cover the extra cost of the solar cells for the new car.

Our team traveled world-wide to teach other countries about our program and it was put into practice in many countries around the world. In 2007 I was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for opening new doors in the search for solutions to air pollution.

Smith Mountain Lake.

He might not have a Nobel Prize or a plan to destroy smog pollution, but there seems little doubt that Dr. Jason Powell is where he was meant

Above, Jason D. Powell is pictured along with his winning essay which appeared in the newspaper in 1986.

article courtesy of Jason Powell

Def Poetry Jam performer Dana Gilmore to appear in Panther's Den

Olivia Walker
Staff Writer

Do you have a love for spoken word or poetry? If so, then you're in for a special treat. Coming to Ferrum on February 24 at 9 pm is Ms. Dana Gilmore, a spoken word extraordinaire.

She's a native of Atlanta, Georgia and has performed in HBO's Def Poetry Jam for the past two years. She has also placed in the NACA regional showcase and the AFCA Showcase.

She has shared the stage with numerous artists such as Mos Def, Kanye West, Anthony Hamilton and

the legendary Smokey Robinson.

She describes her poetry as clear-cut and real. She speaks passionately, yet practically about life's adversities. She believes that writing is her calling and her mission is to portray it.

Outside of her poetry, she spends time traveling across the nation and

performing. She also began working on songs, stage plays and screenplays.

This is a treat you don't want to miss. Come out and support the lovely Ms. Dana Gilmore on February 24 at 9 pm in the Panther's Den.

owalker@ferrum.edu

INSIDE:

News 1

Opinion/Editorial 3

Features 5

Sports 7

AUDITIONS!!!

Blue Ridge Dinner Theatre announces date for season's auditions

Press Release

The Blue Ridge Dinner Theatre is beginning to case for its 2010 season. The company is seeking full-time only actors, singers, and musicians. The season runs from May 12 through August 2010. All positions are paid, and there may be opportunities for an internship. Ferrum students interested in this

summer employment should sign an intent to audition sheet on the callboard on the 2nd floor level of Schoolfield Hall. The actual auditions will be March 27 in the Flexible Theatre. However, only actors that have previously signed up will be allowed to audition. Auditionees should bring a headshot and resume and be prepared to present a monologue and sing.

Are you SAD? Is it serious?

Provided by Campus Safety

Feeling down? The unending winter weather making it hard for you to get motivated to do anything at all? You may be caught in the grips of Seasonal Affective Disorder, a condition in which persons experience depression as a result of seasonal variations in sunlight. Some people experience a serious mood change when the seasons change. They may sleep too much, have little energy, and crave sweets and starchy foods. They may also feel depressed. Though symptoms can be severe, they usually clear up. It has been estimated that 1.5-9% of adults in the US experience SAD. Most people with SAD notice symptoms that begin in the fall and continue through winter months. SAD symptoms do not change with the weather, but with the season.

What are the symptoms?

Difficulty waking up in the morning
Tendency to oversleep as well as to overeat, and especially a craving for carbohydrates, which leads to weight gain

A lack of energy, difficulty concentrating on completing tasks, and withdrawal from friends, family, and social activities.

All of this leads to the depression, pessimism, and lack of pleasure which characterize a person suffering from this disorder. As spring approaches, people with winter-onset SAD notice that symptoms begin to disappear.

What causes SAD?

No known specific cause exists but theories suggest that it may be related to family history, age and the body's natural biological clock. Reduced sunlight in fall and winter may disrupt your body's internal clock, which signals when to sleep

or be awake. The change in season can disrupt the balance of melatonin, which affects sleep patterns and mood. Less sunlight can cause a drop in serotonin, a brain chemical that affects mood. In many species, activity is diminished during the winter months in response to the reduction in available food and the difficulties of surviving in cold weather. Hibernation is an extreme example, but even species that do not hibernate often exhibit changes in behavior during the winter. It has been argued that SAD is an "evolved adaptation" in humans that is a variant or remnant of a hibernation response in some remote ancestor. Presumably, food was scarce during most of human prehistory, and a tendency toward low mood during the winter months would have been adaptive by reducing the need for calorie intake. If these interpretations are correct, SAD would not be a dysfunction or disorder as most psychiatrists assume, but rather a normal and expected response to seasonal changes.

Is there anything I can do to improve the way I feel?

Welcome sunlight into your world! Open window blinds; sit by bright windows; get outside daily and soak up the sun for a few minutes. Even if it's cold or cloudy, outdoor light can help.

Exercise regularly to relieve stress and anxiety, which both increase SAD symptoms.

An increase in Vitamin D is also helpful, as the body does not absorb as much from the sun during the winter months, and is derived from fatty fishes such as salmon, tuna, catfish, etc.

Prolonged depression or suicidal thoughts are a serious matter, and are best handled with professional

Camp Fair provided variety of options, information



Members of the Recreation Club sold s'mores as a way of promoting their club.

photo by Olivia Walker



The Virginia Cooperation Extension is an informal conference for anyone wanting to become a counselor or an adult leader at a 4-H Camp.

photo by Olivia Walker



Camp Hanover is a Christian-based camp in Mechanicsville, VA. Their mission is to provide a place for renewal and growth in an environment of Christain hospitality.

photo by Olivia Walker

Ferrum Forum

compiled by Vanessa Tores

What are you doing for Spring Break?



Amber Stoakley

Going to New York to party and go clubbing!



Blake DiMeglio

I'm going to SCAD in Georgia to visit my best friend.



Brianna Pyles

Going to spend time with the family and go to New York and go clubbing.



CeeCee Bartels

I was supposed to go to Florida, but i screwed up mt knee and have to see the orthopedist!



Chelsie Brown

Spending time with my Mamaw Reathel, because she's my hero!



Clare Mathews

Going home. NOVA BOUND!



Jesus Diaz

I don't really know yet; I'll probably stay on campus to get my money right!



Jordan Dodd

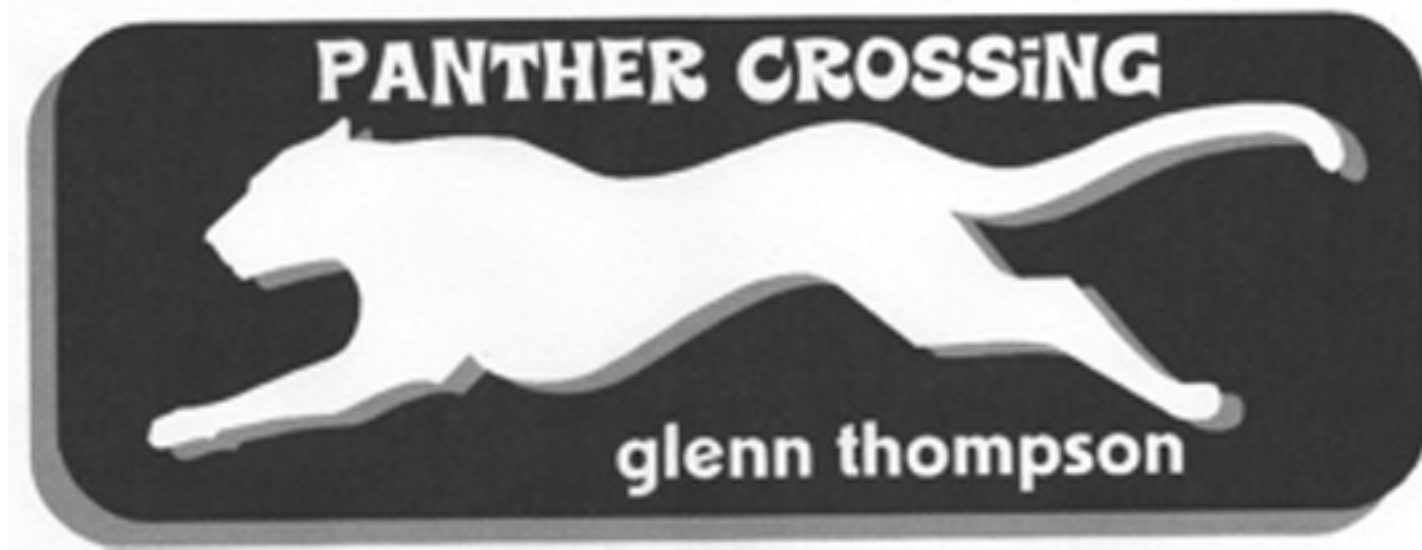
Going home to see my mommy.



Steven Cauley

Going to Florida for baseball.

Opinion/Editorial



If I can't make snow cream, what good is snow?

Glenn Thompson
Special to the Iron Blade

Okay...so the majority of you reading this are too young to know what Snow Cream is...it is not my fault if you are age-challenged. Snow Cream was a concoction my mother and I made the few winters we experienced any sort of snowfall. It was a creation of snow, cream (hence the name), sugar, raw eggs, and real vanilla extract; it was ambrosia...a true gift of the gods. It was what ice cream has always wished it could be. Alas, when radioactive fallout and chemicals in the atmosphere became a concern, we were advised to consider

all of the snow yellow. If you don't get it...don't worry...it's an old hippy song reference. Today, you would have to add the concern about using raw eggs. If you never experienced it...you really missed something...hard to believe, I know, but words fail me.

I had not intended to write about the snow this winter; however, I did not expect that we would receive a half-decade's worth in one winter! All right, I admit it. I hate winter, and especially snow. It has as much to do with severe arthritis and a plethora of old fractures that are not happy puppies when they get cold as anything else. If you have followed

my misadventures, so kindly printed by this to me, you are aware that I was born and raised in the very southern state of Arkansas.

Until my military stint in Germany, my snow experience had been limited to a small number of odd winters featuring an inch or so of snow, accompanying the usual winter's half-foot of ice. In Germany, they measured winter snowfall by the meter...yes, that 39.37 inch one...in multiples. So yes, I have experienced worse, but that does not make it any easier.

One very cold and very white night of my first winter in Germany found me walking Guard Duty in the snow. Now, when I say in the snow...I mean IN the snow. The snow had fallen on and off for over a week, and paths were cleaned by soldiers, shovels, and too little heavy equipment. The Guard Path I walked that frozen eve was approximately two miles in length overall, six feet wide, surrounded on both sides by snowdrift walls of

eight to twelve feet high. It was not a straight path, either. It had a dozen or more turns, and it did not even take one circuit to come to the realization that I felt like a rat in a maze. Snow... too much snow, Sarge.

Another winter of even more spirited quality found us training at a somewhat higher elevation than our own base. We broke out our Arctic gear...let me repeat that... we broke out our Arctic gear. Our thermometers only went down to 30 below...the mercury stopped there, but the temperature did not. Neither did the snow. After three straight days of no training-no nothing-whiteout conditions and C-Rations in our buildings, we began to tunnel from building to building. The snow had passed the roof pitch of these single story buildings. What fun.

Another winter, at a different training area...another blizzard.

My Lieutenant had gone, with driver and jeep, to a far-flung location downrange. The snow hit hard and fast, overpowering the area in a few hours. Our heroes found themselves with a broken axle and a radio with an electrical short. They began a seven mile hike back to base that was the envy of no man...and the concern of the many awaiting their return. They made it of course, and brought the end of the snowfall with them.

We tried to find that vehicle for the next three days...but to no avail. We returned home, and Infantry life being what it was, I forgot all about the jeep.

It was two months later to the day; I received the phone call and dispatched a wrecker to the mountains.

Spring thaw had arrived on the peaks, and like a newly sprouting plant, our wayward little green machine was poking its head from the melting snow, hoping for just a little attention.

STAFF

Editor-in-Chief

| | |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| News Editor | Bethay Lackey |
| Features Editor | Susan King |
| Sports Editor | Roger L. Keaton III |
| Photography Editor | |
| Advisor | Dr. Lana A. Whited |
| Page Designer | Kristina Stump |

Staff Writers, Photographers, and Contributors

| | | |
|----------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| Tristen Ashley | Matt Bird | Tia'Lavon Butler |
| Jordan Edelin | Cara Friende | Michael Gresham |
| Calvin Gunter | Khoseraw Habibi | Ashley Hale |
| Chazley Logan | Ellie Miller | Michael Rich |
| Chalet Satterthwaite | Amber Stoakley | Caleb Taylor |
| Vanessa Torres | Olivia Walker | Stephen Washington |
| John Wells | Tanisha Williams | |

Letters Policy and Publication Details:

Address letters to the editor of The Iron Blade through campus mail, or e-mail iblade@ferrum.edu; all letters must include names and phone numbers and are subject to editing for grammar, space, and potentially libelous material. Names may be withheld in special circumstances, subject to the discretion of the editor, but in no case will a letter be printed if the identity of the writer is not known to the editor or advisor.

Opinions expressed in The Iron Blade do not necessarily reflect those of Ferrum College administration, staff, faculty, or students.

The Iron Blade is published every week during the academic year at Ferrum College, Ferrum, Va. It is designed on Apple computers and printed at JS Printing in Montgomery, Ala. Material may be reprinted with the advisor's written permission.

To contact The Iron Blade, call 365-4304 or e-mail iblade@ferrum.edu.

The crest on page one was designed by alumna Sandy Southard ('04) in 2005 and updated and colorized in 2009 by Glenn Thompson.

Does the U.S. really need more college graduates?

Press Release

Does the United States need more college graduates to remain an economic power, or is college just too expensive to benefit many Americans? That will be the focus of a debate that the Miller Center of Public Affairs at the University of Virginia, in partnership with MacNeil/Lehrer Productions and the National Press Club, is holding Friday, February 26 at 7:00 pm at the National Press Club. It will air on PBS stations across the country.

Participants include:

- Margaret Spellings, former U.S. Secretary of Education
- Michael Lomax, President and CEO, United Negro College Fund
- Richard Vedder, Economics Professor, Ohio University

-- George Leef, Research Director, The John William Pope Center for Higher Education Policy

-- Paul Solman, business and economics correspondent for "PBS NewsHour," will moderate the debate.

Today, about 40 percent of Americans, aged 25 to 34, have graduated from college. That figure has remained stable for decades, while graduation rates in other countries, including China, have increased dramatically in recent years.

Debate participants will argue several questions, including: To remain an economic superpower, does the U.S. need to focus on jobs that require innovation and critical thinking, skills best acquired in

see **GRADS?** page 5

Features

Ferrum Folks: Bobby Thompson



photo courtesy of Public Relations

Tristen Ashley
Senior Staff Writer

Bobby Thompson has quite a history at Ferrum College. Thompson was a student at Ferrum, graduating in 1970 with an associate's degree when Ferrum was still a two-year college. He didn't come from far away.

"I grew up as the youngest of six off of Route 40," says Thompson. "My dad worked here, and it was a tremendous opportunity to come here and get the confidence to go further."

Thompson says that one professor in particular stood out to him when he attended Ferrum almost forty years ago. "Professor Tony Giesen peaked

my interest (in mathematics)," he says. "His method of teaching was very inspiring. I had no problem being up to speed as I went further."

Thompson went on to Virginia Tech and graduated in 1972 with a degree in mathematics. After working for several years as a manager in Leggett Stores, Thompson returned to Ferrum College in 1979 as the Business Manager. "I work with a lot of operations," he says. "It's fun to come to work every day."

Thompson graduated with his masters in Administration in 1988 from Lynchburg College and was appointed as the Director of Administrative Services at Ferrum College.

In his time here, Thompson has seen many changes to college. Thompson says that one of the most positive changes was having Dr. Jennifer Braaten come to the college as president. "She is able to get people focused in a good direction," he says. "She always looks for the good in people. She is amazing in that way."

Thompson has helped to oversee many projects in the past ten years, such as getting a cell phone tower and the Papa John's franchise as well as the addition of several dorm buildings, like Clark. "We realized that as we were adding students we would need more room for them," he says. "We started talking about it with Moducraft in December of 2007. We moved on construction in March and moved students in that August."

Thompson says being so involved in projects is easy at Ferrum. "When you believe in what you're doing, it impacts how and what you're doing," he says.

Being in the business office, Thompson has had the chance to talk to other small private schools about the projects that they are working on and what they do. He says he is always impressed with what Ferrum does in comparison. "Ferrum is a unique school," he says.

Thompson also serves on the Board of Supervisors for Franklin County. Thompson says he enjoys doing both jobs. "The job here is great, but this (serving on the Board of Supervisors) has given me an opportunity to connect with the people in the county," he says.

Thompson admits that sometimes the job can be challenging. "It has been an extremely difficult budget year," he says. "We can't raise taxes too much so we have to find other ways."

Thompson says that being on the Board of Supervisors and working at Ferrum sometimes coincide. "The county government is very supportive of the college," he says. "We use the college to develop services in and around Franklin County."

Thompson says he is appreciative of all the things he has been given. "Education has been the best thing (for me)," he says. "It is amazing how many doors education opens. It has allowed me to be in a position to influence things for the better."

Thompson says there are times when there is nothing he can do to make the situation better. "I analyze situations and look at the nooks and crannies of the area to see what I can do to help," he says. "Situations like the incident in November, the death or injury of a student, make me sad because it is something I cannot control."

As many things as he does, Thompson says that there is one job that he favors over the rest. "The best job is being a papa," he says with a smile.

Thompson has three grandchildren living in Roanoke, all under the age of four. "They are such a joy," he says. "Watching them makes me appreciate life and God's plan for generations. The three year old reminds me of her mother at that age."

Thompson says that he has learned to appreciate the things around him. "I've been blessed with my faith, health, community and family," he says. "The older I get, the shorter the list gets of things that really matter."

Thompson has been a part of Ferrum College for almost forty years off and on. (Giesen has been a member of the math faculty for 45.)

"Ferrum has given me a chance to grow and have opportunities I would not have had otherwise," he says. "Being at Ferrum takes hold of you."

tashley@ferrum.edu

Student Activities Calendar

compiled by **Ellie Miller**
Staff Writer

Monday February 22, 2010

8am - 8pm Exhibition: Artists Jan Knipe and William White Greer Gallery, Stanley Library through March -----
6 - 6:45pm - Weekly Ag Club Mtg Garber 123
7 - 8pm - Intramural Volleyball Fitness Center
7 - 8pm - The Church: Last Lecture Vaughn Chapel
9-1pm - PEM Club Meeting Trophy Room, Swartz Gym

Tuesday February 23, 2010

7 - 9pm - Yoga, Dance Studio
9pm - Improv Club Show Panthers Den to Wed., Feb. 24 at 7:30 am

Wednesday February 24, 2010

5:30 - 6:45pm - Senior Class Meeting Grousbeck 101 Auditorium
6:30 - 8:30pm - College Against Cancer/Relay for Life Mtg

Beckham 103
6:30 - 7:30pm - Night Hike Outside Panthers Den
6:30 - 7:30pm - Pathways to Leadership Workshop Panthers Den
9 - 10pm - Spoken Word with Dana Gilmore, Panthers Den
Thursday February 25, 2010
8:30 - 5:45pm - Student Teachers Seminars, Beckham 101
8 - 9pm - Recharging Thursday Night Bible Study Roberts Hall Conference Rm

Friday February 26, 2010 Spring Break Begins!

Saturday February 27, 2010
Florida Everglades Spring Break Trip
6am - Depart from Lower Franklin Hall Parking Lot
Return Sunday, March 7, 2pm

emiller@ferrum.edu

GRADS? from page 4

college, because it cannot compete with the world on the price of labor? Are college graduates better off financially and socially? Or with annual tuition averaging \$20,000 for public colleges and \$30,000 for private schools, does the cost of college outweigh the benefits for many Americans? Is it sound public policy to urge Americans to go to college, with the personal savings rate at its lowest since the Great Depression?

This debate is part of a series that the Miller Center will produce this year.

Source: *Miller Center of Public Affairs at the University of Virginia*

CONTACT: Kristy Schantz, +1-202-758-3918, kkschantz@virginia.edu or Kim Curtis +1-434-243-2985, kcurtis@virginia.edu, all at the Miller Center of Public Affairs at the University of Virginia

Movie Reviews

“The Wolfman” (2010): not worth the wait-- acting uninspired, special effects disappointing

Michael Rich
Senior Staff Writer

Back in the 1930's and 40's Universal was known for its creature features: "Dracula," "Frankenstein," and "The Wolfman." "Dracula" and "Frankenstein" have been remade in recent years and were close enough to the source material. It was only a matter of time before they remade "The Wolfman."

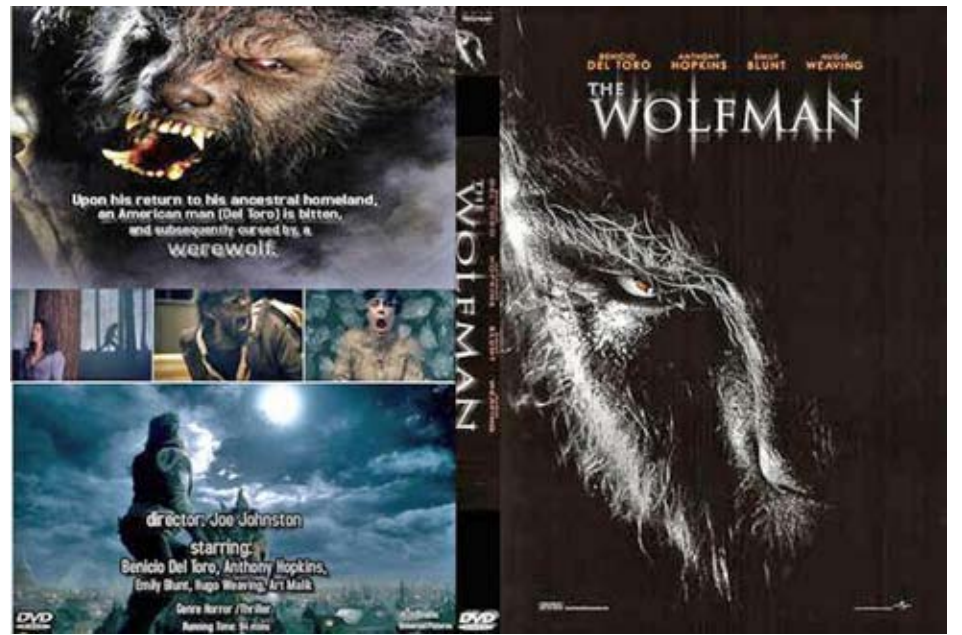
The area where the film takes place is in rural England in the 1890's. Here the estate of Sir John Talbot (Anthony Hopkins) has fallen into disrepair. John's son, Ben, eventually disappears and winds up dead days later, mangled. John's other son Lawrence (Benicio Del Toro) comes home after many years. Ben's fiancé, Gwen Conliffe (Emily Blunt) desperately wants to figure out what happened.

Lawrence's search for what happens leads him to a band of Gypsies led by Maleva (Geraldine Chaplin). No sooner does this

happen, when the camp is attacked by a half man/half beast. Maleva cleans up Lawrence's wounds, but is pronounced cursed. When the next full moon is out, Lawrence goes out on a bloody rampage.

Boris Karloff, Bela Lugosi and Lon Cheney Jr. were all great actors in their day. They all made their iconic stamps on their characters. Therefore, it puzzles me when they ended up casting Benicio del Toro as Talbot. Del Toro is a great actor but at times he seems rather casual about what has actually happened to him. Anthony Hopkins is pretty much Anthony Hopkins, and is enjoying chewing up the scenery. Emily Blunt, who I like a lot, just seemed to be going through the motions. Maybe the only person here that is actually having fun is Hugo Weaving who plays a police detective.

"The Wolfman" had another problem: veteran make up artist Rick Baker doesn't give us something all that special. Special effects also



disappoints when they transform Del Toro. I know special effects have improved since 1941, but it feels as if the special effects are outdated even more compared to today's standards.

This movie was supposed to be released last year. When a film is delayed for close to a year or longer,

it's usually the case of a studio not having faith in its product. I do believe that Universal had faith in "The Wolfman," although I have to wonder why it was dumped in the month of February.

mrich@ferrum.edu



Kappa Alpha Sigma sells cupcakes to raise cash

On Thursday February 11, Kappa Alpha Sigma (KAS) sold cupcakes in Franklin Hall to raise money for the sorority. Pictured left to right are Megan Wilkerson and Katie Blacher taking a shift at the sale. Wilkerson, sorority president, stated that they had been doing different events all week to raise money for numerous reasons. The money from the other events had been going towards other causes. It was the money that came from selling the "ConvoCakes" that would go towards their sorority.

photo by Erika Stinett

Chrysalis Magazine still seeking art submissions for publications

Jeffrey Myers
Chrysalis Staff

We, the Chrysalis crew, are looking for the best material we can get our hands on for our yearly magazine. Send a copy of your best visual artworks before Feb 26, and you'll most likely see it in the magazine.

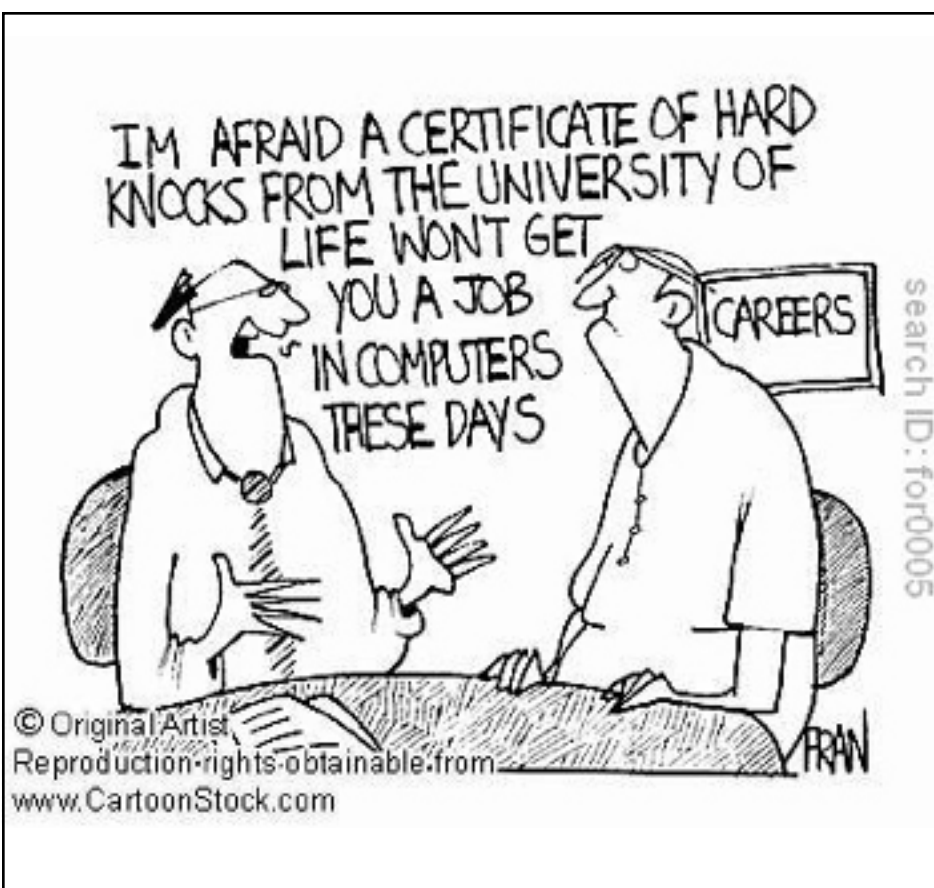
Two-dimensional: Drawings, paintings, or anything of the nature should either be scanned, copied or have a workable digital pic (meaning that it fills the whole picture or at least most...try to take the picture without the flash first but if it isn't bright enough, then use the flash...try to keep as much reflection from the flash out of the picture as possible).

Three-dimensional: Sculptures and

other artworks of the nature should be copied by taking a picture (be sure the picture is that of quality...the best way to get a good picture is to take it outside on a sunny day or shine an unnatural source of light on it...do not use the flash on the camera please...the light from a bright lamp should be enough).

For all: Include your full name and/or alias, title if any, and date of completion if possible. You may e-mail them to nspencer@ferrum.edu or crsmith@ferrum.edu, or turn them in to Bassett 102. We really want to fill up this section with plenty of art and there is plenty of room so submit, submit, submit.

jsmyers@ferrum.edu



© Original Artist
Reproduction rights obtainable from
www.CartoonStock.com

Sports

Panther Profile: Jason Butterworth

Vanessa Torres
Staff Writer

Like many athletes Jason Butterworth or “Butters,” like many of his coaches, teammates, and close friends like to call him, has played baseball since the day he could walk. He recalls the many times he played with his father when he was a young boy and how much his dad liked the sport, just as Jason does today. Like many young athletes Jason played in little league and liked being on a team with many kids of his own age.

He never really knew that he wanted to play baseball in high school or in college until one day during little league practice his coach brought to practice a statistic chart on how many players continue to play ball throughout their lives. The chart showed the percentage of how many players decided to play baseball in high school, how many played in college and how many played in the major leagues. Butterworth, after hearing this, decided that he wanted to be a part of those statistics. So he played baseball at Western Albemarle High School in Crozet, Virginia. He then came to Ferrum College and decided to walk-on to the team

playing catcher and second base.

Not only does he work hard on the field he also works hard off the field. This is Butterworth’s senior year at Ferrum College and he has been working hard in his major, Criminal Justice and his minor, Psychology. During his educational career at Ferrum Butterworth has always had hard points and good points in pursue of his major and minor but has had professors that he has looked up to and have helped him throughout the way, including Peggy Wimmer and Susan Mead. With the impact they have had he has been able to go a long way.

He remembers always wanting to be a cop and entering into the military. After graduation Butterworth plans on going into the United States Marine Corps this October. As a senior Butterworth hopes on finishing strong academically and on the field. He wants nothing more then to be an example for his teammates on the field and show them how far he has come as a person and how his teammates can do the same. “I try each day to lead by example, push myself as hard as I can, so that they can do the same.”

vtorres@ferrum.edu



photo by Matt Byrd

Baseball team working to prove better than past season’s record



Ferrum’s Jason Butterworth is at bat against Roanoke College February 13. Ferrum lost 6-5. The game was played at Averett due to snow on the Ferrum and Roanoke fields.

photo by Matt Byrd

Roger L. Keaton, III
Sports Editor

Darren Hodges returns as coach of Ferrum College’s baseball team and is assisted by Matt McGuire for the second season and student assistant coaches (and former Ferrum players) Sam Catron and Matt Bird. Hodges hopes the team will improve in his third season at the helm after going 10-23 and 15-15 in the past two seasons. Historically Ferrum College is not used to .500 seasons like last year but it was an improvement over the previous season, just as this season will be. Hodges says this team is “much better than a .500 team” and hopes to show that during the season.

As has been an issue with all athletic teams around the state of Virginia, the baseball team has been limited in outdoors practice time by the snow. Only practicing two days outside has hindered the team but Hodges says “they’ve handled it really well.” The weather is out of their control but they make the most of their time practicing, whether it is in the Fitness Center or the indoor batting cage.

Losses from last season’s team include Jesse Fuller at shortstop and pitcher Pete Larson who led the team in ERA. Dustin Howell’s leadership will also be missed. Returners for Ferrum include All-Conference infielder Paul Jaglowski and outfielder

Travis Crump. For the pitching staff Brian Bowles is back after being out all of last season recovering from Tommy John surgery. Bowles is a captain this season and is a “great pitcher and leader.” Jon Wilson and Brian Mays are the other two arms to anchor what should be a “pretty good staff.” For Mays it seemed like something “clicked” in the fall and he started hitting 90+ mph with command. For his career he is below .500 but should have a “huge year for us.”

Daniel Alvarez has moved to third base and has “looked great defensively and swinging the bat.” A few freshmen should make an impact, led by left-handed pitcher Cory Inman and catchers Steven Holt and Sammy Holloway. Inman should be a “real good one” and the two freshmen catchers who are battling for playing time are expected to catch most games for the team. Baseball fans might wonder what happened to last year’s catcher Jason Butterworth; he has been moved back to second base, a position he played previously in his career at Ferrum. DJ Phillips also returns to playing baseball at Ferrum and is the “spiritual leader” for the team, the “glue that holds things together.”

In a show of the strength of the USA South Conference, three

see **BASEBALL** page 8 -

Tennis Preview: men's team shows improvement, women's team largely untested

Roger L. Keaton, III
Sports Editor

Tennis is one of those sports that plays a split season, with a couple of tournaments coming in the fall but the majority of the season being in the spring. The men's tennis team won the Panther Scramble handily. The tennis team, like all other spring sports teams at Ferrum College, have been greatly affected by the weather. While the players want to play regardless of the weather, Coach Lew Hege has to be a voice of reason to his teams and keep them indoors much of the practice time thus far.

On the men's side, all the members have worked hard and shown a lot of improvement. Their goal for the year is to have a winning record even with such a tough schedule. Hege



Lew Hege, head coach for both men's and women's tennis, has hope and praise for both teams.

photo courtesy of Sports Information

compliments his team in that they "are very dedicated, a good group, very coachable, and have an excellent attitude." In looking over the schedule, there are a few spots where the team plays every other day or three matches in four days. When asked if his team got a day off during some of those packed stretches, Hege looked up in almost bewilderment and responded with "if we don't play we practice."

On the women's side, the team is very young. Only eight women play, of which six are in their first year of college tennis and the two returners were the 6 and 7 players last season. This should be a "very challenging season" for the women due to their collective youth and inexperience. This is most likely the youngest team ever at Ferrum College and possibly the youngest team in the country. This

team does have "good chemistry" and a "go get-em attitude" and will improve due to their work ethic and the stiff competition they face. The team will do the best it can and give its best effort, 100% every time out on the court.

To combat the weather that has already postponed a few matches of the 20 dates scheduled the team practices in the racquetball rooms in the fitness center and plays some at the Smith Mt. Lake YMCA that has two nice indoors courts. In exhibiting the team's dedication it has been outside as much or more than other teams in the area and works extremely hard when they do practice. The players are in good shape and make the most of all of their practice time.

rkeaton@ferrum.edu

State of Ferrum College Athletics (Part 1)

Roger L. Keaton, III
Sports Editor

This feature is something that came to me partially due to the idea of the Iron Blade's page designer, Kristina Stump. The ensuing is the first of a multiple part feature that will cover all Ferrum College sports. This part covers football, cross country, men's and women's lacrosse, men's and women's tennis, men's and women's soccer, and golf. The next part will cover volleyball, baseball, men's and women's basketball, and other miscellaneous information. If any sport was left out, please address it with me and I will be sure to go back and correct it.

I want to start this off with the big revenue sport at all schools: football. Legendary coach Hank Norton brought tremendous success to Ferrum during his tenure, including a number of NJCAA championships. Dave Davis is now the coach and has been for 16 years. In the words of Athletics Director Abe Naff, when asked if he thought Davis might retire sometime soon, "we hope he'll be here a long time." He does a "great job" and even though this season only had a 5-5 record, the team was just a couple of plays away from being in a pseudo-conference championship game.

According to Naff, the key to winning football games, and all athletic contests, is "having a large amount of juniors and seniors." The football team had a few academic casualties this past season, but that is in large part due to student-athletes having priorities misplaced and getting behind academically and not being able to recover from those early mistakes. While someone may look at

some of the losses on all athletic teams and assume that athlete retention is a problem at Ferrum College that assumption would be incorrect. Looking at all students, the group with the highest retention is commuters. Second is female athletes, and third is male athletes. Speaking of academic difficulties, Ferrum College is one of the few schools that allows students to stay in school even though they are not eligible to play intercollegiate athletics. Something many people may fail to realize is that student-athletes who are ineligible to participate at Ferrum College would still be eligible at many schools in our conference.

Ferrum's "coaches work extremely hard" in recruiting students who are "solid students, socially, and have a will to work athletically," something that is a "never-ending challenge." Another challenge for all coaches but especially for the football team is finding a suitable practice time. The team has about 100 players on the team but sometimes will start practice with 50-60 players. While Naff loves the enrollment boost in the years since Dr. Jennifer Braaten came to the college, he says that an unintended consequence of the boost has been fitting practice around class times, whether those are afternoon classes or night classes. Naff would love to see more 8 a.m. classes, something much of the student body would not enjoy.

In cross country, the team was in the top two or three in the conference from 2000 to 2004 but has dropped off some since then. Naff says the biggest problem with the cross country team is not having a track and field team or a full-time cross country coach (current coach Rob Fuller assists the men's basketball team). The school is

appreciative of the runners who come to Ferrum but admits that recruiting more runners would be possible if a lit track were built at Ferrum College. A track would be a great addition to the athletic program, in cross country as well as football, soccer, basketball, and other sports, as many players either run track or participate in field events. Besides helping the athletic teams, a track would be great for walkers in the community to give them a comfortable place to exercise. A track being built is more of a dream currently for Naff, but he feels that one is "very important for the future of Ferrum College."

The most recent addition in sports is men's lacrosse. This came to be as both students and staff saw a need and made it happen. Lacrosse is the fastest growing sport in the country and Naff likes how it will open recruiting up for Ferrum in northern Virginia and surrounding areas. Just having the Ferrum College name in those areas will assist in the growth and development of Ferrum across all areas, including academics as well as athletics.

The men's tennis team, under the leadership of legendary coach and professor Bud Skeens, was one of the most dominant programs in the history of collegiate athletics. More recently current Assistant A.D. and S.I.D. Gary Holden coached the team and did very well but the tennis program has since dropped off from its previous successes. Lew Hege was hired as Ferrum College's first full-time tennis coach and has worked tremendously to build a recruiting base. Ferrum is now on the radar of some players across the state who in the past probably would never have even heard

about the college. Next year Hege hopes to have a have about 12 players on each of the men's and women's tennis teams.

In golf, the team has struggled in the past. Golfers are difficult to recruit at Ferrum College, due to our not having a golf course near the college and the coach being Bryan Harvey, who is also the head coach of the women's basketball team. Harvey having to split his time between two sports hinders his ability to recruit players for each of his teams. On the agenda along with building a track and hiring a coach for a track and field team is to hire a full-time coach for the golf program and adding a women's golf team.

The men's soccer team has been through some tough times in the past few years with coaching turnover, but current coach Jonathan Freeman has "done a great job" and has the team improving and closing in on the rest of the conference, with 7 of the team's 13 losses this past season coming by a single goal. In women's soccer, Sandy Lagana has done great work in her time at Ferrum College. The addition of the Penn-Roediger field has helped, but Lagana has worked in recruiting and now fills the roster, making sure that Ferrum is not forced to play down, as in the past.

Since Karen Harvey began coaching at Ferrum College, the women's lacrosse team has shown great improvement. It takes a while to build a program, and Ferrum is now turning that corner. Adding a men's lacrosse team will help Harvey in her recruiting, as it helps get the school's name out there and into lacrosse circles.

rkeaton@ferrum.edu

BASEBALL from page 7

teams competed in the NCAA South Regionals last season. Last season the team lost lots of one-run games, showing that the team is close to getting over the hump but just was not there yet. In the words of Hodges "those games come down to who

makes the big mistake" and too often last season Ferrum made that mistake. The team has not set a public goal for wins but knows that 25 or more are very achievable. In looking over the season the team thinks it gave away five games where it made just enough

mistakes to get beat. The preseason USA South poll picked Ferrum fifth but the team hopes to better that mark. In looking forward to the season the team realizes that it can lose any game but also knows that if key guys play up to potential they can win any game

and have a fantastic season. Hodges expects to have a "pretty good year" but acknowledges Mother Nature in that "you have to play to find out."

rkeaton@ferrum.edu