



THE IRON BLADE

SINCE 1955



Ferrum Folks:

Matt Dobson
see page 5

Vol. 55, No. 3

55 Years of Ferrum College News

October 5, 2009

College chapter of Colleges Against Cancer plans "Think Pink" events for Breast Cancer Awareness Month

Tia'Lavon Butler
Staff Writer

October is known as Breast Cancer Awareness month. Each year various clubs and organizations hold events to promote recognition of the disease that affects so many people.

According to the American Cancer Society (ACA), breast cancer is the second most common cancer among women (skin cancer is the first). It is the second leading cause of cancer-related deaths among women, with lung cancer being number one. For 2009, the ACA estimates 192,700 new cases of invasive breast cancer and 40,170 deaths due to breast cancer.

Ferrum's chapter of Colleges Against Cancer (CAC) recognizes the severity of cancer and holds many events throughout the year in order to promote awareness. CAC President

Rebekah Motley, a senior, understands the power of knowledge.

The club has held events in the past such as Think Pink, aimed at informing the campus community of breast cancer, and the Great America Smoke Out, aimed at informing the campus community about tobacco-related cancers. CAC also organizes fundraisers and sponsors Relay for Life each year.

This year, to promote Breast Cancer Awareness month CAC will continue their cause to get others informed and involved. The women's volleyball team, for example, will wear pink jerseys during the month and, at press time, planned a "Dig Pink" event with the volleyball team on Oct. 1.

During Homecoming, CAC also plan to utilize this time of high spirits by setting up tables that provide information about cancer. CAC will also be selling pink t-shirts and baked goods.



Proceeds will go to the American Cancer Society.

During the month of October, CAC is asking for the entire campus

community to get involved, support the cause, and THINK PINK!

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Dr. Carolyn Thomas named to national panel

Natalie Faunce
Public Relations Office

A Ferrum College professor with a passion for preserving the world's water supplies has been selected to serve on a national panel studying critical ecological data to help scientists understand the effects of climate change on our ecosystems.

Dr. Carolyn Thomas, professor of environmental studies and biology, is one of 12 experts selected to serve the National Ecological Observatory Network (NEON). NEON is a non-profit

organization that manages large-scale ecological observing systems and experiments on behalf of the scientific community.

"My passion and profession is to help solve the world's water pollution problems and specifically Virginia's water pollution issues," Thomas said. "I look forward to sharing my expertise with other scientific leaders from around the country while providing additional insight and learning opportunities for Ferrum students."

NEON will create a new national observatory network to collect eco-



Dr. Carolyn Thomas, professor of environmental studies and biology.

photo courtesy of Public Relations

logical and climatic observations across the United States, including Alaska, Hawaii and Puerto Rico. The observatory network will be the first of its kind designed to detect and enable forecasting of ecological change at continental scales over multiple decades.

Thomas was chosen to serve on the panel based on her involvement with the Ecological Society of America, an international society of 10,000 members, and her work with the Collaboration through Appalachian Watershed Studies (CAWS), which serves to enhance ecology education

at several small Appalachian colleges and universities through collaborative study of ecosystems.

"What really excites me is that NEON will model research to be conducted over the next few years after work being done at smaller institutions like Ferrum," Thomas says. "The scientific community is finally recognizing the outstanding research at smaller colleges since that work is closely connected to the communities we serve. This project has the ability to really change the way research works."

American Red Cross Bloodmobile set for Oct. 7

Kai Dabney
Staff Writer

Ferrum College will be participating in the American Red Cross Bloodmobile on Wed., Oct. 7, from 12 to 6 p.m. in the Fitness Center.

Blood is needed for many reasons, including people with cancer, blood disorders such as sickle cell anemia, and other illnesses. Some people even need regular blood transfusions just to remain alive.

Donating blood helps many people around the world. Nearly 5 million

people a year receive blood transfusions, according to the Red Cross, and even small donations can make the difference between life and death.

Though registration for the Bloodmobile took place in Franklin Hall, anyone who was unable to register can register online at www.givelife.org. To register, set up an account and find Ferrum College on the "donation areas" list. The open time slots for donating can be found here.

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Ferrum welcomes new full-time faculty

Ashley Hale
Editor-in-Chief

Along with 1,400 new students to enter Ferrum's campus for the 2009-10 academic year come three new faculty faces, Professor Karen Hiltz, assistant professor of business; Dr. Billy Long, assistant professor of criminal justice; and Dr. Monique Taylor, assistant professor of mathematics.

Hiltz earned her A.A.S. in Business Administration from Coastal Carolina Community College in Jacksonville, N.C., in 1987. She then earned her B.B.A. in Management (with honors) from Charmainade University in Honolulu, Hawaii, in 1989. She obtained her M.B.A. in management from Marymount University in Arlington in 1996.

Prior to joining the Ferrum campus, Hiltz was a Federal Acquisition in Procurement Professional. Though she has no previous experience teaching at other educational institutions Hiltz stated that she is eager to teach.

"I am here because I choose to be here," Hiltz stated. "I want to share the knowledge and experience I have had throughout my career."

Hiltz stated that she is enjoying the



Professor Karen Hiltz

photo by Heather Bozarth

small campus and the faculty camaraderie.

Long earned his B.S. and M.A. in criminal Justice and criminology from East Tennessee University (ETSU) in 1989 and 1991. He then earned his Ph.D. in criminology from Indiana University of Pennsylvania in 1998.

For nine years Long worked at another small, private, liberal arts

institution, Methodist College, then left to teach at a larger institution. "I found that I was much more comfortable in this kind of atmosphere," said Long. "I like the fact that we have small classes and a close-knit campus community."

Long reports that he enjoys watching his students improve and urges them to visit during office hours to get help. "I am willing to spend a lot of time on campus helping students. I strongly encourage students to come to my office, whether or not they need help on quizzes, exams, papers, class presentations, etc.," he said.

Long reports that students who seek out help from faculty tend to do better. "Students have an invaluable resource in the highly dedicated faculty at Ferrum, and it would be a tragedy to not take advantage of that fact," said Long.

Like Long, Taylor also wants her students to know that she is always available to assist them.

Taylor earned her B.S. from Fayetteville State University in 2003. She then went on to earn her M.S. and Ph.D. from North Carolina State University.

As a graduate student, Taylor



Dr. Monique Taylor

photo by Heather Bozarth

taught at NC State. She then went on to teach part-time at Shaw University.

Taylor states that she is enjoying the fact that Ferrum seems to be so student-centered. "Students are respectful," stated Taylor, "and faculty are focused on making sure the students are learning."

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UR@FC presents at undergraduate research symposium

Lana A. Whited
Iron Blade advisor

Three Ferrum students and one alumnus gave a presentation on Sept. 26 at an undergraduate symposium at the University of North Carolina at Asheville. The symposium wrapped up a year-long project supported by a grant from the Appalachian College Association (ACA)-UNCA Partnership for Undergraduate Research.

Presenters were Kyle Flack ('09), AnnMichelle Bolt, Whitney Scott, and Ashley Hale. The title of their presentation was "Undergraduate Research at Ferrum College (UR@FC)."

Faculty mentors for the project were Dr. Michaela Gazdik, assistant professor of molecular biology; Dr. Jasmine Goodnow, assistant professor of recreation leadership; Dr. Kevin Reilly, associate professor of psychology; and Dr. Lana Whited, professor of English, director of the Boone Honors Program, and project director.

The purpose of the research project was to survey the state of undergraduate research at Ferrum and formulate recommendations as to how research opportunities for students might be enhanced. The team examined samples of both class-based and co-curricular student research at Ferrum, including senior seminar and thesis requirements and grant-funded projects such as the Lee B. Ledford Scholarships sponsored by the ACA.

Under the guidance of Dr. Gazdik, Kyle Flack surveyed faculty to determine faculty attitudes and perceptions concerning undergraduate research. Using a Likert scale with responses ranging from "Strongly disagree" to "Strongly agree," faculty were asked to respond to a series of statements derived from primary literature on the topic.

One hundred percent of faculty responding agreed that research is an important part of the undergraduate experience, and 80 percent disagreed or disagreed strongly with the statement, "Ferrum faculty should focus on classroom teaching and not spend energy on research."

Faculty respondents said they perceive the two biggest impediments to research opportunities for students to be lack of time and lack of student interest or ability.

Under the guidance of Dr. Goodnow, Bolt surveyed a representative sample of 300 students. The student survey also featured forced choice questions with responses along a Likert scale.

Samples of items on the student survey included "I would benefit from engaging in research during my academic career," "I am capable of doing research," and "Research is a waste of time."

According to Bolt, one of the most interesting findings of the student survey was the fact that students indicated enthusiasm for research at such high numbers, answering "Agree" or "Strongly agree" to questions stating that



Student members of the UR@FC team are (L-R) Kyle Flack ('09), AnnMichelle Bolt, Whitney Scott, and Ashley Hale.

photo by Lana Whited

research is interesting (76 percent), that they would benefit from doing it (88 percent), that their communities could benefit from their research (87 percent), and that they are capable of doing research (92 percent). Only 54 percent said that research is "too much work."

Student enthusiasm, said Bolt, appeared to some extent to contradict the faculty perception that student attitude is a top impediment to research opportunities.

Scott, working with Dr. Reilly, presented an overview of funding sources for student research, both internal and external to Ferrum.

Hale, working with Dr. Whited, gave an overview of models for coordinating undergraduate research

opportunities at institutions similar to Ferrum, both in the ACA and in the region. She also surveyed some recent research projects undertaken by Ferrum students.

Now that the presentation is over, the team will formulate recommendations to pass along to the provost, school deans, and program coordinators.

Whitney Scott said, "Before I got involved in this project, I had no idea that students like me could have anything to say that people with Ph.D.s and loads of professional experience would want to hear. {The project} helped me to tap into an academic intensity I hadn't experienced in my classes."

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Opinion/Editorial

His Royal Highness Nefer the Mighty

Glenn Thompson
Special to The Iron Blade

I have recently acquired the position of Second Caretaker to Nefer the Mighty.

Okay... We have a cat. But I really think the cat has us.

We have all heard the old cookie that dogs have owners and cats have staff, and I have found it to be true. I have shared space with a half-dozen odd dogs over the years, but this is my first feline experience. I admit it. I am now a cat person. I still love all animals of course, but I have definitely developed a feline fixation. But that is NOT why we now have... seven... cats.

Hold on, I am getting ahead of myself. Let me start at the beginning.

When my wife faced a third surgical procedure in May, I thought she needed the comfort of a beautiful companion, a *Nefeteri*, as it were. A friend whose cat had recently had kittens offered up a beautiful black and white she-kitten (or so we thought) and we were the mesmerized victims of a pair of bright yellow-green eyes. We obediently purchased an assortment of toys designed for feline amusement, and became the doting pet-parents. Daily we were

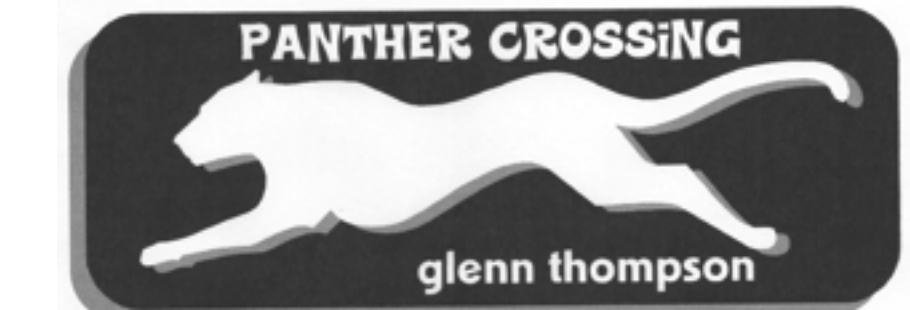
to dedicate all desired time to Cat Attention Duty, regardless of other commitments. We did it all. We were sad cases.

About a week after we lost control of our lives we took Neferteri to her first meeting with her court physician. Upon entering the examination room and seeing Her Highness for the first time, the good lady doctor queried us about the supposed sex of our companion. I explained that there was no evidence of external genitalia, so she undertook an examination to see for herself. She then declared our she to be a he...and while we held the poor creature she applied her thumbs and...well, you get the idea.

Mazel tov! It's a boy!

I had never seen a cat cross its eyes before. It's very strange...and I had certainly never heard a cat squawk like a chicken. That was just wrong on so many levels. I admit that I also felt a momentary spasm and wave of nausea...in sympathy to the poor now-fellow. So, now no longer the Princess but the Prince, we stuck to the shortened version...Nefer the Mighty. It suits.

Now, at this same time, as our hearts opened to feline influence, a slender young female cat, with exquisite grey and black tiger stripes



showed up on our patio. After a few weeks of friendly feeding, we realized she was in the family way. She disappeared under our shed and a few days later we spotted her, nestled up with no less than five tiny versions of herself. We later determined they were four boys and one girl (a real one this time). Some of whom we are still trying to find homes for, so...

Oh yes, I do have a tale to tell on his HIGHness. When he weighed in at about four pounds and four months, he bolted out a door accidentally left ajar for his first solo sojourn into the wide world where the kittens who visited the patio daily lived. I do not know where he found the rocket sled...but he was a black and white blur.

We are the proud caretakers of a magnificent (approximately seventy feet high) specimen of *Liriodendron tulipifera* (tulip poplar). It is the largest tree in our yard. Naturally, it is the one he would choose to climb...and boy did he climb. He spent some time at 30 feet or so, then found his way to around the 50-foot level.

I think it was at this point that he realized that this was his first tree

climbing experience, and even though the natural construction of his claws made climbing easy, he had not been taught the reverse climb technique that cats use to descend from such lofty heights. We called him together. We took turns. Even the tiger stripe kittens came to the tree with their mother and called to him.

Keep in mind that Nefer was a month older than the litter, but had lived his days as an indoor cat. At that point, as if his embarrassment in the feline world was not permanently entrenched, the kittens proceeded to climb a dozen feet or so up the tree, and then, I swear, calling out constantly as if giving instructions and *clawpelling* in exaggerated movements, they descended and ascended repeatedly for a few minutes to no avail. His Royal Catness had quieted, and was ignoring us all, climbing up another level or so.

Not surprisingly, a storm moved into the area. A big storm. You might remember it.

We slept little that night, walking to the patio to try and make out the

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

The 50th Anniversary crest on page one was designed by
Iron Blade alumna Sandy Southard ('04).

If You Care To Know...

Ferrum announces new major; belches loudly

Michael Gresham
Staff Writer

A recently announced new major at Ferrum College has met with mostly favorable responses from students, parents, and faculty.

The new major, Crunk Science, will, according to faculty member and program coordinator Dr. Lester Burnham, "focus on the ancient art of getting completely ripped."

Dr. Burnham continued: "This is a natural step, since so many of our students have already done the groundwork. This will provide a career-oriented solution for those whose specialty lies in an area that, quite frankly, is not exactly favored in most academic environments."

Burnham, who came under fire as assistant professor of ethnobotany while at Berkeley for his admitted progressive views, says he is primarily concerned with the future of his students.

In response to repeated allegations by the Conservative Education Society, Burnham said: "Certainly my experiences with the Waukazamzu Tribe have colored my perceptions.

But until you've seen the sky bleed pastels and tuned into your own DNA while gargling the ocean, you can't tell me I'm in the wrong here. Schools have been overlooking a tremendous educational opportunity."

Crunk sciences classes will include Keg-Stands, Ragers, & The Renaissance (PBR 101) and Beer-Pong: A Holistic Approach (PBR 237), which will also count as a physical education credit). PBR 237 will include famed Sigma Nu champion Andre "Porkbelly" Argyle as a guest speaker. An Honors course will even be offered—A History of Beer in Post-WWII Europe, taught by Dr. Gary Angel.

Texts will include material by Tucker Max, Charles Bukowski, and selections from Animal House.

Students have been exceedingly enthusiastic about the new major, with an overwhelming 76 percent planning to, at the very minimum, take Crunk Science as a minor.

For students interested in testing the waters of this new major, a summer e-term will be offered:

see **BELCHES** page 8 —

Ferrum Forum

compiled by Matt Bird

Do you know anyone who has been affected by breast cancer? Who?



Jessica Flanagan

Yes, Mom's friend and a friend's mom.



Ethan Fowlkes

Yes, my mom's friend.



Jasmine Parker

Yes, both of my aunts.



Jason Parker

Yes, my aunt has it.



Paul Jaglowski

My best friend's neighbor has it, so, in a way, yeah.



Tyler Milstead

No, and I hope not to.



Dakota Lettieri

No, but my dad had lung cancer.



Gabe Moncada

Not breast cancer but leukemia. My cousin.



Lauren Hearp

Yes, someone who works with my dad.

Features

Student Activities Calendar

compiled by Jordan Edelin
Staff Writer

Monday October 5, 2009

3:30 p.m. - Powder Puff Football Season Begins- Bassett Field
6 p.m. - Weekly Agriculture Club Meeting - Garber 123
6:30 p.m. - Ferrum Outdoors Bouldering Session - Wall beside Fitness Center
7 p.m. - THE CHURCH - Vaughn Chapel
Final Round Homecoming Voting

Tuesday October 6, 2009

6:15 p.m. - Ferrum Outdoors Rocwood Indoor Climbing Gym
9 p.m. - BINGO - Panthers Den
Final Round Homecoming Voting
M Soccer vs. Hampden- Sydney College

Wednesday October 7, 2009

12 p.m. - Bloodmobile - Fitness Center
3 p.m. - Movie Makers - Panthers Den
6:30 p.m. - Colleges Against Cancer/ Relay for Life Meeting Beckham 103
9 p.m. - Improv Shows Sale Theater, Schoolfield Hall
Final Round Homecoming Voting
W Soccer vs. Southern Virginia U

Thursday October 8, 2009

4 p.m. Exhibit: "Sustainability: Trash to Treasure" opening and reception Greer Gallery in Stanley Library **continues through Nov. 3**
8 p.m. Recharging Thursday Night Bible Study Roberts Hall Conference Room

Friday October 9, 2009

2 p.m. - Homecoming!! Various Locations
8 p.m. - Homecoming Pep Rally W Soccer vs. Peace College

Saturday October 10, 2009

2 p.m. - FOOTBALL HOME vs. Methodist University Adams Stadium
2 p.m. - HOMECOMING!! - - Various Locations
M Soccer vs. NCW

Sunday October 11, 2009

W Soccer vs. Meredith College

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Ferrum Folks Matt Dobson



photo by Tristan Ashley

Tristan Ashley
Staff Writer

Matt Dobson received a call on Jan. 23, 2009, that turned his world upside down. The phone call was from his parents, telling him that his younger brother had asked him to come home. Dobson left late that afternoon for his home in Fredericksburg, Va.

Dobson's younger brother James, 9, had been sick with a brain tumor for almost five years and had undergone surgery a few months before. He had also undergone radiation treatment.

The real obstacle for Dobson's brother came in January when the side effects from the radiation showed up. On Jan 23, James' vocal cords became paralyzed and food was going into his lungs. James went into the hospital and had a seizure late that night. The doctors put him in a medically induced coma until they could find the best plan of action.

Faced with finding the best way for James to get better, the Dobson family decided on a tracheotomy, a surgical procedure during which a direct opening to the trachea or windpipe is made through the skin of the neck. After waking up, James had a lot of recovering to do. He was in the hospital until about mid February and then in a rehabilitation center until near the end of March.

After James knew that he was going to be all right, Dobson says, his younger brother kicked him out of the hospital and told him to go back to college. "That's just the kind of kid he is," says Dobson.

Many people know Dobson as the quarterback of the Ferrum football team. Dobson entered Ferrum in the fall of 2006 and will be graduating with a degree in criminal justice in May.

Dobson has been playing football for about ten years. "It's always a thinking battle," he says. "There is a challenge to out think the defense and recognize what it is doing."

Zack Lewis plays wide receiver and quarterback for the football team and works with Dobson often. "He's a team leader on and off the field," says Lewis. "He leads by example."

Lewis saw the challenges that Dobson faced last year and characterized him as a resilient person: "To have so much on his plate, to have all of that going on and still excel . . . Matt seems to handle it very well."

Dobson says that without his Ferrum football family, he wouldn't have made it through last semester.

"I have to give a lot of credit to the football coaches. They were a big factor in me being able to stay here," says Dobson. "Every single one of them acted like a second father away from home."

Dobson has been getting ready for the Homecoming game against Methodist on Oct 10. "You get excited, but you can't get too excited. You have to keep a level head," he says.

Dobson says at a homecoming game the most excited fans are the Ferrum football alumni. "They are probably the loudest of the fans," he says. "They come there to see the game and you don't want to let them down."

Dobson says his biggest fans are probably his brothers. James and Dobson's older brother, Cory, come to his games with their jerseys on.

James is here every weekend and hangs out with Dobson and his roommates after the games. "He's 10 but he thinks he's 20," Dobson laughs.

Dobson says he is very close to his family. Dobson and James got close

The Iron Blade wants YOU!

If you want to write, take photographs, design pages, sell advertisements, or be a paper boy or girl, the campus newspaper needs you.

**Staff meets on Mondays
at 1:25 p.m.
in Library Addition 202A.**

If you can't make the meetings, contact Dr. Lana Whited, advisor, at 4334 or e-mail lwhited@ferrum.edu.

**If you want to be a new staff member
for Spring 2010,
pre-register for ENG 131 (journalism practicum).**

see **Folks** page 6

Movie Reviews

“Fame”--another film remake that’s not as good as the original

Michael Rich
Staff Writer

Hollywood must love remaking movies from the 80’s because today’s audience is too young to remember the original movies. Studios are also really inclined to make a buck these days on film remakes. Currently on the horizon to be remade is “Total Recall,” “The Secret of NIMH,” “Red Dawn,” “Angel Heart,” “Masters of the Universe,” and apparently “Robocop.”

The original “Fame” film came out in 1980. To give you an idea of just how long ago 1980 was, consider this: A movie ticket cost \$2.50. The highest grossing film was “The Empire Strikes Back” making 250 million dollars. Blockbuster status was around 100 million dollars then. New York City, where the film took place, was a city that was rotting from within.

This new “Fame” is the reinvention, although something of a loose remake to the original. The original “Fame” won an Oscar for “Best Song.” (Who has had “Remember my Name” stuck in their head?) “Fame” was also a TV show

for six years. MGM had been planning a remake of “Fame” since early 2000.

As with the original, the film takes place over four years at the at a high school for the performing arts in New York City. The new students are given a pep talk by Principal Simms (Debbie Allen, the lone returnee from the original cast), basically saying, “If you don’t want to be here, there’s the door.”

Let’s meet the players now.

First, the musicians: there’s Denise (Naturi Naughton), who plays the piano but has a burning desire to sing. Naughton sings “Out Here On My Own” the lone returning song except for the “Fame” theme song. Denise starts to hang out with Malik (Collins Pennie) and Neil (Paul Iancono) who want to make it in the music business.

Then there are the actors, who include Jenny (Kay Panabaker) and Joy (Anna Marie Perez de Tagle). Eventually during the course of the film, Joy gets a job (silly as it is) on “Sesame Street.” Jenny, during this time period, hangs out with up-and-coming actor, Andy (Tony Longo), much to the dismay of her boyfriend, Marco (Asher Brook)..



Lastly, we have the dancers. There is Alice (Kherington Payne), who is a very talented dancer, and Kevin (Paul McGill), who is another dancer but the cards might not be in his favor. Kevin is basically told at the end by dance instructor Lynn Craft (Bebe Neuwirth) that he better start teaching dance.

The problem with “Fame” is that there are too many characters and only 1 hour and 45 minutes of film to get anything meaningful out of them. To his credit, director Kevin Tacharoen doesn’t go after no-names. If you want known names: Kherington Payne was on “So You Think You Can Dance”; Naturi Naughton was Little Kim in “Notorious”; and Kay Panabaker was in “Nancy Drew.” The other kids don’t

really leave much of a mark.

The teachers do leave their mark. These include Kelsey Grammer as music teacher Joel Cransen, and Megan Mullally as voice instructor Fran Rowan. All have done some theatre work in real life.

Several other things are wrong with “Fame.” For one, it constantly brings up and then retreats from the subject of what actual fame means today. The other problem is that the film zips through freshman to senior year without giving much context.

The “Fame” song lyrics go, “Tell me what you see.” I see people sticking with the original.

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First Coffeehouse announces winning performances

The first Chrysalis Coffeehouse of the year, on Thurs., Sept. 24, featured a special tribute to Michael Jackson and attracted over 150 students, faculty, and staff. Justin Muse in the Student Leadership and Engagement Office and Papa John’s, which contributed 25 pizzas, added to the success, according to John Kitterman, Chrysalis advisor..

More than 20 people performed on stage, especially members of the Improv Club.

The following prizes were awarded, based on audience votes:

1. For music: First place—Alex Angel; Second Place—Straight Like Dat Entertainment; Third Place—Brittney Liggins.
2. For poetry: First place—Olivia Walker; Second Place—Darnell Simpson

3. For best Michael Jackson impersonation, in dance: First place—Jessi Naff; Second place—J.C. Morrison

These winners can pick up their prizes in Britt 214; the office hours are posted on the door.

On Oct. 29, the Chrysalis Art & Culture Magazine staff will be bringing you the special Halloween Coffeehouse, at 8 p.m. in the P.D.

The vent will feature special decorations, a big costume contest, and a local band. Details will be provided in October.

The Chrysalis staff meets every Wednesday at 4 p.m. in Bassett 102. You can pick up a copy of the 2008-2009 Chrysalis Magazine there, from one of the staff, or in Britt 214.

For questions, send e-mail to jkitterman@ferrum.edu or call 4326.

FOLKS from page 5

about five years ago when doctors found James’ first brain tumor. “Since his brain tumor when he was five, we are really close,” he says. “We were tight before but now we’re closer. I don’t go a day without talking to him on the phone.”

Dobson said his closeness to his brother made it that much harder to concentrate on school. “There’s no way not to keep my mind on (James’s situation),” he says.

Surprisingly, Dobson’s grades did not suffer last spring. “When you enter a classroom, everything else is left behind,” he says. “It’s very difficult to do when a family member is in the hospital. You have to have a really good support group behind you.”

Dobson says he found that support from Ferrum. “I got letters and cards from all kinds of people. People I didn’t even know,” he says.

Green grants available to students

Have an idea for how to make Ferrum College a more sustainable place?

You can get the funds to make it happen with a Student Green Grant!

The School of Natural Sciences and Mathematics is pleased to provide Student Green Grants as part of this year’s sustainability theme programming. Three grants of up to \$500 will be awarded to students in the Fall semester of 2009, with another grant cycle possible in Spring semester.

What kind of projects will be funded?

- Energy and water conservation
- Waste management
- Transportation
- Land-use
- Campus culture and sustainability-awareness
- Edible landscaping
- Local food

How to apply for a grant:

Submit applications in writing or electronically to Dr. Glen Stevens, gstevens3@ferrum.edu. Grant proposals submitted by Nov. 1 will have priority and additional proposals will be considered on a rolling basis.

Applications must include the following:

- First and last name
- Student ID Number
- Phone number
- Email address
- Expected graduation date
- Department or Major
- Project proposal

The Project Proposal should include the following:

- Description of the problem and how the work proposed will begin to solve it

see **GRANT** page 8 —

After graduation in May, Dobson hopes to work his way into a federal agency like the FBI or DEA, preferably in a job close to home, he says.

As for James, he is getting better. He was able to eat his first few bites of apple sauce a few weeks ago. His vocal cords are getting better, and his cancer seems to be gone.

Dobson says he’s grateful for the opportunity to be away from home

and on his own at Ferrum. He says he loves the community atmosphere at Ferrum. However, Dobson looks forward to being close to his family again.

“Family is always there to support you in everything you do,” he says.

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Sports

Panther Profile: Brandon Jackson

Roger L. Keaton, III
Sports Editor

He is “on that wavy movement.” He is our SGA treasurer. He might be your RA, especially if you live on 2nd North Bassett. Freshmen might know him from helping with Susie Crow’s workshops. If you do not know this man from these things, you may recognize him from the football team. He is 5th year senior defensive back Brandon Jackson.

A returning starter last fall for the Ferrum College football team, Jackson tore his ACL and lost his senior season to injury. He applied for a medical redshirt; it was granted, and he is back to being a leader in the secondary for the team. In thinking back about good times, Jackson thought of football and reminisced about his freshman year when the Panthers won the USA South Conference title.

Education-wise Jackson is a sports management major with a psychology minor. In his time at Ferrum, Jackson admitted that his most difficult class has been Business Management with Prof. Micky Naff. A class in his minor, Personality, with Dr. Kevin Reilly, was his most enjoyable class.

Looking forward to graduation, Jackson admits he is really going to miss the people and the atmosphere, exhibited by “how everyone’s really

close.” In being recruited to come here, Jackson fell in love with the school for its “good academics and small classes” and a talk with Susie Crow during his recruiting visit helped solidify his decision.

You may have heard about that “wavy movement” but you may not know its origin. It was an idea that came to Jackson and Justin Gibbs (’09) to give a name to their “positive attitudes and always staying positive, all the time and every time.”

Jackson has enjoyed his work with Bonner Scholars, especially this past year when he mentored a high school freshman who was struggling with reading. Jackson acknowledged that he does not enjoy reading in front of people and that in helping this teen he was able to work on one of his own weaknesses. Also with the Bonner program, Jackson visits Ferrum Elementary School and claims that “they love me.” He shares stories with students and vice-versa and has even adopted some of their interests, including Spongebob Squarepants.

In his free time, Jackson adores spending time with his girlfriend Natalie Hall, whom he calls “the best thing in the world.” Along with his girlfriend, Jackson enjoys “hanging with his boys.” Through his years in college, Jackson has accumulated a fair share of wisdom and would like to



Brandon Jackson

photo by Matt Bird

share it with those younger members of the student body. He suggests to “enjoy college” because it is a short time in your life and to “take advantage of your opportunities.” Each student should figure out “how

[he or she] wants to be remembered, whether as that student who didn’t go to class or as a model student. It’s up to them.”

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Tennis remembers past, looks to future

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Sports Editor

Football is not the only sport doing something important on October 10 as part of Homecoming festivities. The tennis team and all of Ferrum College athletics will induct Doug Buerlein (’70) into the Ferrum Sports Hall of Fame. Buerlein played alongside other Ferrum greats and Hall of Fame members Lu Merritt, Murrie Bates, and current coach Lew Hege. During this stretch of dominance, Bud Skeens coached Ferrum to seven consecutive undefeated seasons as part of his overall record of 345-41.

Tennis is an interesting sport

because of how it has a few tournaments in the fall but the majority of its season is in the spring. Looking at the current men’s tennis team, Coach Lew Hege says it is “a lot stronger than last year.” The team “brought in some good recruits this year” including Christopher Miller from Phoenix, who was Hege’s first recruit in his short time at his alma mater. Miller may end up playing in the first spot for Ferrum this year. Other newcomers include Darren Agee who transferred in and has had a two-year break from competitive tennis but

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Rodge’s Hodge Podge

Roger L. Keaton, III
Sports Editor

Football moved to 2-1 last weekend after defeating Southern Virginia University 28-21. Another strong rushing output was led by **Matt Lucas** who finished two yards short of the century mark. **Matt Dobson** also rushed for 47 yards and a touchdown while passing for 127 yards and two touchdowns with one interception. **Mike Vann** had six total touches (four rushes, one catch, one KO return) but made the most of those and totaled 119 all-purpose yards and two touchdowns, one on the ground and one receiving. On defense **Dennis Hardy** had another big day totaling five tackles, an interception, and assisting on one sack. ... The

final four home **football** games are in the next five weeks, starting with **Homecoming** October 10 against Methodist College and finishing up with **Senior Day** November 7 against Averett University. ...

Unlike football, **volleyball** has struggled recently after a strong start. The team is currently on a five-match losing streak, having only won two sets in that period. ... **Women’s soccer** is only 1-7-1 but four losses have been by only one goal. A fifth loss was by two goals and a sixth was by three. The team seems to be very close to turning the corner but just is not there yet. ... The **men’s soccer** team is 2-5 with four losses by a single goal.

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to blackout last season. A judge has allowed a man to be temporarily released from jail so he can see the Red Sox play the Royals. The judge felt watching Kansas City play nine innings was equivalent to at least two years in prison. The Washington Nationals are the first team to lose 100 games. The accomplishment is especially

impressive since they’ve only played 95. Russia’s wealthiest man has struck a deal to buy the New Jersey Nets. Apparently being the wealthiest man in Russia isn’t the same thing as being the smartest man in Russia. India’s cricket coach told his players that sex increases on-field performance. And TV ratings.



For the second straight year, an unranked Iowa team knocked Penn State out of the BCS race. Joe Paterno was so upset, he even

woke up. The Detroit Lions plan to blackout their game against the Washington Redskins. They’ve also been trying

Mississippi State fans fill the need for more cowbells

David Helman
The Daily Reveille, LSU

UWIRE--Gator fans have the chomp and Auburn supporters yell "War Eagle!"

But in Starkville, Miss., home of Mississippi State, they have cowbells — tons of them — and, like Christopher Walken in the popular SNL skit, they need more.

"You've got a handle, a piece of metal with a ball in it and you ring it when something good happens," said Justin Ammon, sports editor of the Reflector, Mississippi State's student newspaper.

During its 70-plus year history at Mississippi State, the cowbell has enjoyed an iconic status as a noisemaker, tradition, controversy and overall thorn in the side to all who oppose it.

"It's our main tradition, for better or for worse," Ammon said. "It's kind of a rebellious way to scoff at the backwoods stereotype, like, 'Yeah, we have cowbells. What's it to you?'"

Ammon's attitude is one many Southerners can understand, even those that have to deal with the

dreaded clanging this weekend.

"When you think of the South, you think of the country," said LSU senior offensive tackle Ciron Black. "What better way to show your Southern pride than to have cowbells?"

Saturday is Black's third career trip to Starkville — he traveled there his first season at LSU when he was redshirted — and he said the fans aren't having any trouble allaying their cowbell fever.

"That's every year ever since I've been a freshman," Black said. "It gets pretty loud actually — you don't realize it. It's good though. They're going to be amped up and juiced up."

Legend has it that Bulldog fans embraced the power of the cowbell in the early days of Southeastern Conference football. The most common story is that a cow — complete with cowbell — found its way onto the field during a game against hated rival Ole Miss.

"The cow got onto the field and started running around, and the bell rang the whole time," said Katie Landry, a professional meteorology sophomore at Mississippi State. "When the game started back up, we played so much better

and beat Ole Miss."

The clamoring of cowbells has followed the Bulldogs everywhere since.

The bells come in more varieties than even Edgar Allan Poe could imagine. Colors range from maroon to white to pink and feature logos, ribbons and stickers.

"It's just like what people do with their laptops," Ammon said. "You'll see a 3-year-old with a little one or a big burly guy with a huge one."

Landry and many other Greek students at MSU sport their Greek letters on their cowbells.

Landry said the cowbells make the in-stadium experience "much more intense," for Davis Wade Stadium's capacity of 55,082, which is considerably smaller than several of the SEC's colossal venues.

Not that many haven't tried to silence the racket.

The SEC enacted a ban against artificial noise makers in 1975, hindering fans' abilities to bring their cowbells into the stadium. The conference went so far as to take on-field action against artificial noise, allowing referees to penalize a team

either five or 15 yards for fans' use of noise makers.

A ray of hope for the cowbell's legality shined in 2006 when the NCAA eliminated its rule against artificial noise, but the SEC was subsequently granted exemption to enforce its own rules.

"The SEC hates MSU's cowbells so much they wanted to pursue their own rule," Ammon said. "They kind of stuck it to us on that one."

The restrictions prohibit the presence of cowbells at Davis Wade during SEC games, but that hardly helps to stop the ringing.

Ammon said stadium security is "don't ask, don't tell" if cowbells aren't in plain view, while Landry said students have their own methods.

"Guards will search your purse, and if they see or hear one they confiscate it," Landry said.

"So girls stuff their cowbells with napkins or tissues and hide it on the bottom of their purse, and guys put it in their back pocket."

Those suffering from cowbell fever should fill their prescription Saturday night.

"We love our cowbells," Ammon said.

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year break from competitive tennis but is rounding into shape. Jay Dotson is another newcomer who will surprise some people. He may not look like a tennis player but "he's tough" according to Hege.

Returns from last year include John Hartin, Matt Mellone, and Bob Dill who are "all a lot tougher than last year" and Daniel Grubb who is a "good doubles player" and uses his "size and strength" effectively. Lost from last year include Romy Fajarda who transferred to Virginia Tech and Chris Brown who has used all of his eligibility.

Hege says that his men's team is "noticeably stronger than last year" and while they "may not be the team to beat" that they "will get better each week." The goal for the team each year is to move up one or two sports in conference by winning every match that they are favored and upsetting someone along the way.

Over on the women's side the team returns its 2, 4, 6, and 7 players in Angelina Baaklini, Heather Marshall, Lea McMillan, and Cameron Kolinski. They each have one athletic letter to lead the team. Hege has gained a few players this fall from PE classes and might gain another player or two when the spring comes.

Hege acknowledges that his team is "fairly young" but "they work very hard and have been learning from the get go." He says this year "might be pretty tough at the top" but the team is improving. The team may be "a year away" but combining the work ethic of the current players and a newly "established recruiting base" the team could improve quickly.

Of the six girls on the team last year five garnered Academic All-Conference honors and Hege says the team is "very serious about [academics]." Marshall, the lone senior, should earn Intercollegiate Tennis Association (ITA) Academic All-American honors this year.

While being happy for the success of the current tennis players Hege is looking forward to the future and returning to the days when he and Doug Buerlein played when teams knew playing against the Panthers of Ferrum College meant a loss would be on the books. An improvement has already been seen in numbers; there were only six women and five men playing last year and each team already has 11 and should have 12 or more in the spring.

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- Obstacles that the project is likely to encounter and a plan to creatively overcome those issues
- Itemized budget and timeline
- Plan for continuation of the work (integration into the existing framework of campus operations)
- Co-signature of college staff or faculty member; this person should be involved in the development of the proposal (signatures of additional collaborators are a plus)
- Preliminary approval from relevant

campus administrators indicating support for the project
- Plan for how to measure and report the success of the project, including the benefit provided to the campus community

Questions? Contact Rachel Troyer, Ferrum College Sustainability Coordinator and School of Natural Science and Mathematics Lab Assistant in Garber Hall Room 206, at (540)365-6928, Fax- (540) 365-4375, or at rtroyer@ferrum.edu.

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pitiful little figure in his upper-upper balcony seat. I contacted an arborist friend who agreed to come to our aid early the next morning, post-storm. The rescue involved yet another public loss of face for Himself in the form of a yowling ride in a sack, suspended from a rope. One good thing did come of it all. He has not gone near that tree since.

He must have taken lessons from his outdoor cousins, though. He loves to climb, just not so high anymore. Some evenings when I go out to get

him and bring him in at nightfall, he will wait for me, then bolt about six or seven feet up the nearest tree. Then he slowly backs down the tree, looking at me as if to say, "Look! I can climb now!" Then, I gather him up for the evening, and sing his song to him on the way back to the house.

Nefer the Mighty...he's black and whitey...he's as brave as he can be... he can climb any tree...

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Alphabet Burping: A Geographical Study. Research for this introductory e-term will be carried out on campuses across Virginia and will stress an entirely unbiased approach. "Lager or light beer, makes no difference," Dr. Burnham said. "Burping the alphabet knows no boundaries." At this, the famed Berkeley professor slugged

a Red Stripe and began to belch out "Leaves of Grass."

This reporter is certainly proud of Ferrum's progressive stance, and asks that we all raise a cold one to our forward-thinking administration.

Let's just hope classes aren't BYOB.

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