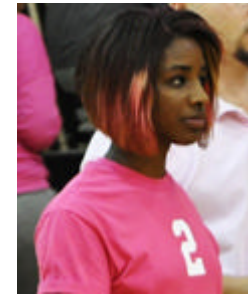




# THE IRON BLADE

SINCE 1955



Dig Pink  
Volleyball  
see page 4

Vol. 56, No. 7

56 Years of Ferrum College News

November 2, 2010

## Author Adam Shepard to speak at Ferrum; hopes to inspire and motivate his generation

Stephen Washington  
Staff Writer

Adam Shepard, author of the book "Scratch Beginnings: Me, \$25, and the Search for the American Dream," will be visiting Ferrum College on Thursday, November 4. Shepard will visit some classes before speaking at 7 p.m. in the Blue Ridge Mountain Room.

Shepard's book "Scratch Beginnings" is the story of his experience as a low-wage worker in Charleston, S.C. Shepard started out there with \$25, living in a homeless shelter and not relying on his credentials as a college graduate. His goals were to have, at the end of one year, a job, a place to live, a working automobile, and \$2,500 saved.

Shepard says he wants his story to inspire readers and remind them that success is attainable to anyone who is willing to work hard.

His book is a response to Barbara Ehrenreich's book "Nickel and Dimed (On Not Getting by in America)." Shepard became interested in what is called "the American Dream."

The connection between Shepard's book "Scratch Beginnings," and Barbara Ehrenreich's book "Nickel and Dimed," is the "defeatist attitude" that was taken in Ehrenreich's book, Shepard says. In Shepard's book, he went on to explain his experience to succeed despite the obstacles that were placed in front of him.

"A couple of classes (at Ferrum) have already read my book, and I hope to get a dialogue going about 'the American Dream.'"

Shepard's visit to Ferrum is sponsored by the Boone Honors Program. Students in the honors Cornerstone Seminar have read "Scratch Beginnings" and "Nickel and Dimed" as course texts.

Adam Shepard attended Merrimack College in North Andover, Mass., and he is a 2006 graduate. He majored in business management and Spanish. Currently, he resides in Chapel Hill, North Carolina.

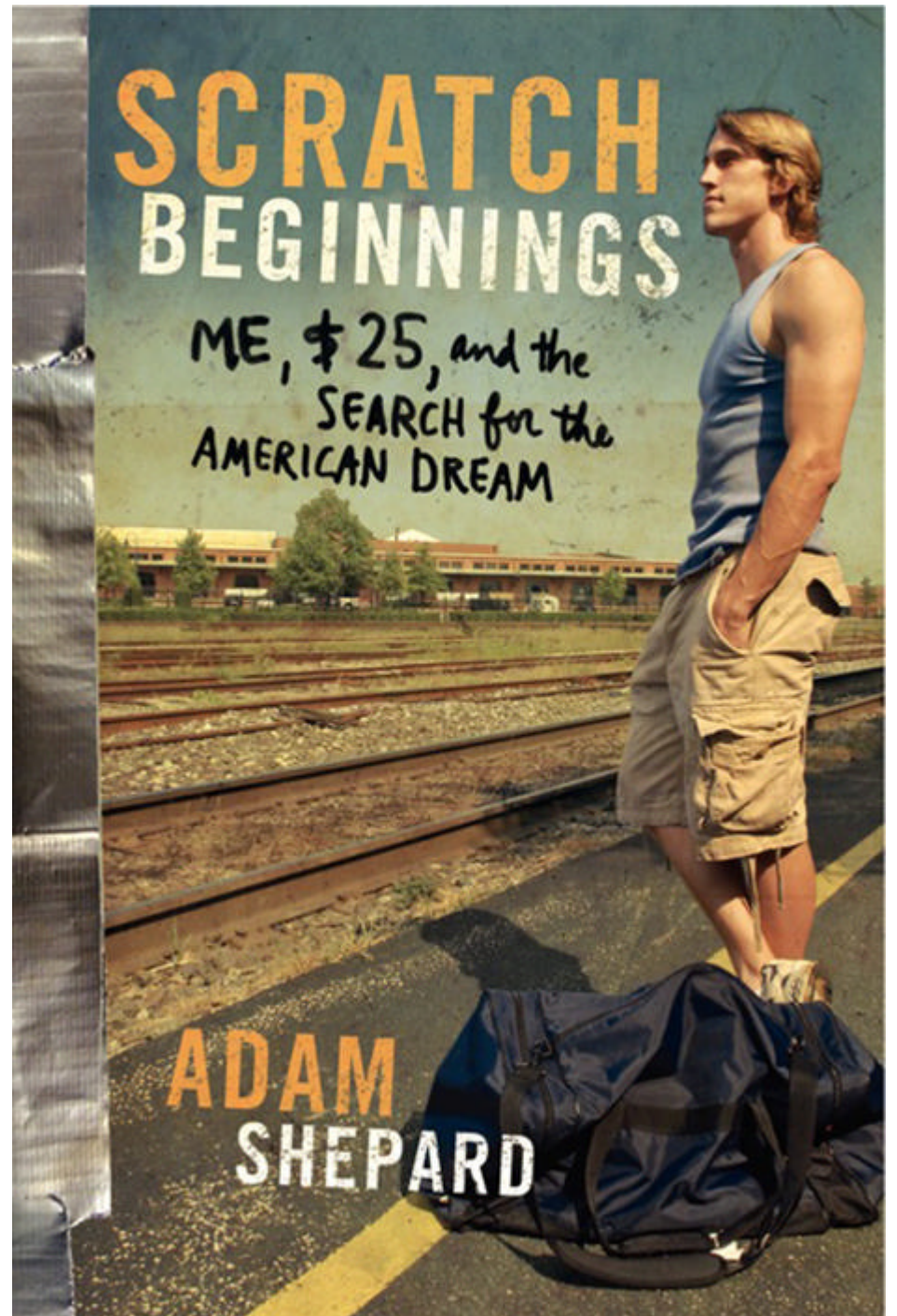
By coming to Ferrum College, Shepard says he hopes to leave students with his message of persistence. He would like to give students the inspiration to deal with tough times before getting to their dreams. Shepard feels that his message will give an edge to someone who is dealing with failure in any aspect of his or her life.

Shepard believes that students can apply what he will be talking about in his speech to everyday life. "Always look on the bright side of everyday, and look forward to tomorrow, despite what happened the day before," Shepard says.

Shepard views his book as an antidote to laziness, to motivate students to chase after their goals. Setting out for Charleston in the beginning of the book, he describes his motivation:

"I am really, really frustrated with the poor attitudes that seem to have swept over my peer group. Frustrated with hearing 'I don't have' rather than 'Let's see what I can do with what I do have.' So, I have decided to demonstrate that it doesn't have to be that way."

swashington@ferrum.edu



Adam Shepard, frustrated by the rising negative attitude among his peer group, sees his book as an antidote to laziness.

## Tom Perriello makes Ferrum College first stop of late push

Amber Stoakley  
Staff Writer



Chaz Pando, Amber Stoakley, CeeCee Barteles, and Ashley France converse with Congressman Perriello.

photo by Briana Pyles

Congressman Tom Perriello stopped by Ferrum College Monday October 25, just after midnight to kick off his "24 hours of Tom" campaign throughout the area. Ferrum College the first stop in his last week on the campaign trail before the Nov. 2 election.

Perriello (D) represents the fifth district of Virginia in the U.S. Congress. He says he stands behind the Democratic Party and believes in a variety of issues such as increased jobs for this area. He has devised a plan to bring more jobs to cities such as Danville, Va. The meeting consisted of a small group of Ferrum College students including SGA President

see **PERRIELLO** page 2

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# SGA Update

**Chaz Pando**  
SGA President

The Student Government Association has been very busy over the past couple of weeks. After a very successful Homecoming week full of spirit, fun, and exciting events; it is now time to start thinking about more upcoming events, programs, and legislative policies.

## SGA Hosted/Supported Upcoming Events:

Great American Smoke Out  
November 17

Pathways to Leadership Workshop  
November 17 at 6:30 p.m.,  
Panther's Den

Snowball Dance  
December 3

The Snowball Dance will be bigger and better than ever before. We are at a new location in Roanoke at the Tanglewood Holiday Inn and have great plans for this fun and exciting night. The theme this year is: **"Masquerade: Black and Gold Royalty."** Tickets will be on sale on Monday, November 1 for \$10 per single ticket and \$15 per couple at the Student Leadership and Engagements desk located in lower Franklin Hall. You do not want to miss out on this! Bring a friend or a group of friends.

Also, the SGA has reserved a limited amount of hotel rooms for Ferrum College students to book at a discounted rate so students do not have to drive back to Ferrum College campus late that night. Students interested in booking a room need to contact the Tanglewood Holiday Inn ASAP at 540-774-4400.

There will be a Snowball planning committee meeting every Tuesday night at 6 p.m. in the Student Leadership Office beginning Tuesday, November 2 to discuss all of the planning and details of this outstanding night we are all looking forward to. This committee is open to all students who are dedicated to helping out and clubs and organizations looking for community service hours.

**Recruitment:** The SGA VP of Legislation, Trasan Moore, is a December graduate and will not be returning to Ferrum for the spring semester. This position will be available to all students interested in taking on this important responsibility. The SGA will hold an open interest meeting for this position November 2 in the Student Leadership and Engagement Office at 7 p.m. The SGA encourages

all students applying for this position to bring their class schedules for the spring semester and a list or resume of their leadership achievements.

The SGA is also looking for three student leaders to chair some committees that are not being represented. These committees are Academic Affairs, Environmental Planning, and Judiciary.

For more information on these positions, please stop by the Student Leadership and Engagement Office located in lower Franklin Hall.

**SGA Policies:** The SGA cabinet has been buried with complaints and concerns about the smoking policy here on the Ferrum College campus and are looking into ways to answer some of the conflicts. SGA is looking into developing appropriate and reasonable **Smoking Zones** on the Ferrum College Campus for students who do smoke. Please convey your opinions or comments about this issue to SGA President Chaz Pando at cpando@ferrum.edu.

**Senate:** Senate meetings are held every other Wednesday night in Grousebeck Hall in the Recital Hall at 7:30 p.m. A representative from each club and organization must attend. There are only three Senate meetings left for the semester: Nov. 3, Nov. 17, and Dec. 1.

**Class Officers:** The class officers representing the freshmen, sophomore, junior, and senior classes have all started meeting with SGA cabinet to discuss what their plans and ideas are for the campus in the coming weeks of the semester. If students have any comments or concerns that they would like to address to their class representatives, please contact the SGA President, Chaz Pando, at cpando@ferrum.edu to find out who to contact about your issue.

### Class Projects

The Sophomore Class officers are looking into programs that Ferrum can operate that help support children and adults with autism. For more information on this project please contact Sophomore Class President Blake DiMeglio at bdiMeglio@ferrum.edu.

**Attention All Seniors!** The Seniors Dinner Dance will be Saturday, April 9 in the Blue Ridge Mountain Room from 7 p.m. until midnight. Tickets will be sold for \$10.00 for a single ticket and \$20.00 for couples. If you would like more information please contact Senior Class President Jeremiah Cook at jcook@ferrum.edu.

## PERRIELLO from page 1

Perriello answered students' questions. When asked how his plans for the area would affect the students of Ferrum College, Perriello answered, "First we want to make sure people can afford to go to college." This is something that affects every college student, not just Ferrum students.

The congressman also got into the health care system as well as Ferrum College's health care, stating, "The

old system incentivies volume of care. The new system incentivies quality of care...more primary care and wellness care." He also said "The community health center has saved a ton of money for the system over all...Less transportation cost for fewer emergency room visits, more primary care and wellness care...not only helps the students and faculty but people in the rural community beyond that."



## Start your Spring Semester HASSLE FREE!

Avoid the hassle! Act now to get your class schedule and avoid any delays in beginning your Spring Semester classes on **WED., JAN. 12**

Please complete the following checklist of items to Reserve Your Place at Ferrum for Spring:

### ✓ Get the Courses YOU WANT by Registering ASAP

Registration begins next week! Please follow the schedule below to registers for your spring classes:

Class	Registration Dates/Times
Seniors (88 hours earned)	Monday, Nov. 8, 2010 (Beginning at 7:30 a.m.)
Juniors (56 hours earned)	Monday, Nov. 8, 2010 (Beginning at 1 p.m.)
Sophomores (24 hours earned)	Tuesday, Nov. 9, 2010 (Beginning at 7:30 a.m.)
Freshmen (less than 24 hours earned)	Wednesday, Nov. 10, 2010 (Beginning at 7:30 a.m.)

Be advised that the registration process is completely online and programming is in effect to block registration until the assigned date. Additionally, students may be blocked from registering due to outstanding account balances, incomplete health forms, or lacking degree plans from Juniors/Seniors.

### ✓ Take Care of your Student Account

Payment in full is due by December 15 for any portion of your spring student account balance (including E-Term travel cost) not covered by financial aid or the monthly payment plan. Outstanding balances for fall must be paid prior to registering for classes. Please contact Student Accounts if you have questions about your student account balance at (540) 365-4239.

### ✓ Financial Aid

Complete your financial aid and receive funds for this academic year. If you haven't already, please stop by the Financial Aid office and take care of any unfinished paperwork.

### ✓ Health Forms

According to Ferrum College policy, you will not be permitted to register or enroll for spring semester without having a completed health form on file. Health forms are available online at: [http://www.ferrum.edu/health\\_center.aspx](http://www.ferrum.edu/health_center.aspx) or contact Jill Adams at (540) 365-4224.

### ✓ Check-In

Please officially check-in online as soon as possible after **January 3**. Completing this online check-in process will lock in your schedule. (Incomplete financial aid paperwork, an incomplete health form, or an outstanding student account balance **WILL** prevent you from checking-in online until you have taken care of these items).

### ✓ Return to Campus

Take care of these items and you will be able to return to campus and begin classes on Wednesday, January 12 without delay! Residence halls will reopen to current students on Tuesday, January 11.

## Spectrum provides variety of support services for gay students

**Rena Holliday**  
Staff Writer

On September 22, 2010, a student death at Rutgers University caused many people to realize that college campuses are still not safe for homosexual college students.

Tyler Clementi, 18 years old, was a freshman at Rutgers University and a talented violinist. Clementi ended his life on Sept. 22 because of anti-gay bullying, according to authorities.

Clementi's roommate, Dharun Ravi, 18, and his friend Molly Wei, 18, recorded Clementi being intimate with another male student and posted the video online. According to ABC News, Ravi updated a Twitter page on Sept. 19 to say that Clementi was "making out with a dude."

Ravi and Wei were charged with invasion of privacy. Making videos of a person nude or engaged in sexual behavior and distributing such videos are both crimes under New Jersey law.

According to the police, after Clementi found out about the online video, he posted a Facebook goodbye and jumped off the George Washing-

ton Bridge into the Hudson River. Clementi's body was identified on Thursday, Sept. 30.

At Ferrum College, there is support for gay students. **Spectrum** is an organization offered at Ferrum College for students, faculty, and staff who are interested in issues related to sexual orientation, gender identity, and diversity. The group often sponsors programs on campus to promote discussion of and education about these issues.

If you are being bullied or picked at by intolerant people and you need to talk to someone, there are always people that will listen at Ferrum. Counselors, your RA's, friends, and any member of the Spectrum club will always have their door open to help.

If you have any questions about the Spectrum club, please contact contact John E. Smith, assistant director of residence life and housing, at ext. 4617 or John Carey, instructor of English, ext.4356. We all have our right to feel safe on campus, no matter who we are, so let's stop the hate.

[rholliday@ferrum.edu](mailto:rholliday@ferrum.edu)

Perriello, who is finishing his first term, said that prior to the current government, "Congress for too long had been too scared to take care of the big problems." He also explained his reasoning for doing campaigns like this one; stating that this is "a chance

to talk directly to voters." He said, "Thirty to sixty-second spots is not enough time to talk."

Remember that Tuesday, Nov. 2 is election day.

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# Ferrum Forum

compiled by Chaz Pando

## Should there be designated areas for smokers on campus?



**Kenneth C. Barron III**

(Junior) First, I would have to ask where these areas would be. If they were off campus, yes, I would find that a problem. If they were placed conveniently near every building, I don't see the problem.



**Josh Horan**

(Senior) I am a non-smoker and every morning at 8:00 a.m. I am FORCED to become a tobacco user. I also run Cross Country and smoke greatly affects me.



**William McCray**

(Senior) Smoking is a bad habit and it bad for your body. I hate smokers with a passion because I feel I am forced to live in a smoker's world.



**Hanna Martin**

(Senior) One says that it is a civil right to be able to smoke cigarettes. But when one chooses not to smoke and is walking behind someone who is, that person has no choice but to inhale the smoke. Smokers violate my civil rights.



**Chazley Logan**

(Senior) If we are going to permit smoking on campus, there should be designated smoking areas on campus, simply because there are a lot people on campus who smoke, but there are even more people who have allergies or objections to smoke.



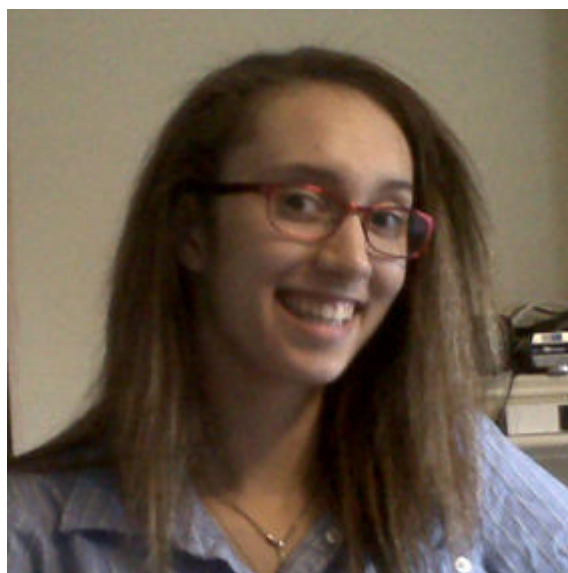
**Megan Halsey**

(Junior) Yes, Because I hate walking through smoke on my way to classes.



**Rebekah Yocum**

(Freshman) I think so, yes. I know I feel bad for blowing smoke around non-smokers.



**Elise Foster**

(Freshman) I think we could have them to be courteous of the non-smokers. Also, if there were smoking areas, there wouldn't be cigarettes everywhere. I really like a clean campus.



**Onaje Sigh**

(Freshman) No. Because people smoke where they want anyways. So there is no need to put time into setting up designated places for people not to.

# Opinion/Editorial



## Panther Crossing

# It was Halloween

**Glenn Thompson**  
Senior Staff Writer

It is on the wind—you can smell it in the smoke from the first fireplaces of fall. It is in the leaves, trading their verdigris for gold and brown before diving headfirst to the earth to rejoin the circle of life. It is this sacrifice that makes the Spring possible. It is almost Halloween.

Halloween was always my favorite holiday as a child. Growing up poor made Christmas often less exciting for us than others, but Halloween was never a disappointment. I have often regretted that my own children never experienced this holiday as I did when young. Now I regret that Rocky and Trinity never will either.

There was a naïve excitement in the air as the night approached. Like others, my own costumes came from friend and family wardrobes, my favorite being the baggy hobo. (One of my favorite television characters of the time was Red Skelton's "Freddy the Freeloader.") My own Oak Street, as well as a few blocks surrounding,

glowed with the orange and yellow lights of pumpkins of all sizes and visages. The soft glow of gas yard lights at the better houses added golden pools of light spaced out down the blocks. Decorations were much simpler then, with no emphasis on monsters and fear—and definitely no gore.

My mother would dispatch me from the house with an admonishment not to eat too much of my evening's booty, as dinner would be ready when I got home from my candy canvass. We would meet on the street, often joining up into groups of three or four—but no more, as the quantity of goodies per child often dropped with the size of the group. We had it down to a science—we knew the art of goody-getting.

We did not come armed with cute little bags for a collection of small candy bars, either. We carried large brown paper grocery bags. I knew a couple of piggish fellows who carried two, claiming it was for a sibling at home too ill to trick or treat. Neither had a sibling.

Don't misunderstand—we weren't greedy—you needed a bag of that size. These were the days of real goodies—not the little sugar loads of today. This was before all of the fake urban legends about razor blades and such—most people made their own Halloween treats. And oh—what treats they were! Popcorn balls of all makes—bigger than softballs! Two-handed cookies with nuts and chocolate! Brownies and Blondies the size of a deck of cards! Candied and caramel apples on sticks! There were those, unable or unwilling to make their own, who handed out candy—usually full-size bars! There were a few times, during really good years, I would fill up my sack so quickly I would come home and get another to go back out and keep going.

Usually, an hour or so was quite

enough time, and even the slowest trick-or-treater had a full sack by then. We would spend a few minutes sitting under a street lamp or yard light, comparing quantity and quality of swag, then head off home.

When I got home, my mother would dump my goodies on the table. She called it a safety check. I called it picking out her favorites. We would wrap up anything needing it, setting aside our chosen dessert for that evening. Still in my Halloween mufti, I would sit in front of the television with one of those new-fangled TV dinners in my lap, watching Boris Karloff or Bela Lugosi or Lon Chaney, Jr. glow in eight-inch black and white round glory.

[gthompson@ferrum.edu](mailto:gthompson@ferrum.edu)

## Volleyball digs pink for Breast Cancer Awareness Month



As the Panthers get fired up to face their opponent in the Dig Pink volleyball game on October 21 (above), Ferrum spectators (below) not only watch the action but many show their support in color with WTF t-shirts. One spectator even dyed his hair pink.

photos by Briana Pyles



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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](mailto: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.

**The Iron Blade staff meets regularly at 1:25 p.m. Mondays in LA 202A. No experience is necessary.**