



# THE IRON BLADE

SINCE 1955



60 seconds with  
Dan Caston  
see page 2

Vol. 56, No. 10

56 Years of Ferrum College News

November 30, 2010

## Exam Schedule Fall Semester 2010-11

Exam Date	Time of Class	Days	Time of Exam
<b>Wed. Dec. 8</b> All English 101 Exams	18:45-21:45	W	9:00-11:00 18:45-20:45
<b>Thurs. Dec. 9</b>	8:00-9:20 9:30-10:50 10:10-11:05 18:45-21:45	TR TR MWF T	8:00-10:00 10:30-12:30 14:00-16:00 18:45-20:45
<b>Fri. Dec. 10</b>	8:00-8:55 11:00-12:20 12:30-1:50 18:45-21:45	MWF TR TR M	8:00-10:00 10:30-12:30 14:00-16:00 18:45-20:45
<b>Sat. Dec. 11</b>	9:05-10:00 12:20-13:15 14:30-15:50 18:45-21:45	MWF MWF MWF R	8:00-10:00 10:30-12:30 14:00-16:00 18:45-20:45
<b>Mon. Dec. 13</b>	11:15-12:10 13:25-14:20 14:00-15:20	MWF MWF TR	8:00-10:00 10:30-12:30 14:00-16:00

If a student has (3) examinations on the same day, a makeup time may be scheduled to the mutual agreement of the student and the faculty member.

## Something for everyone in Sale Theatre, December 2



The Theatre 246 Directing I Class will present a One-Act Play Series on December 2 from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. in the Sale Theatre. The order of performance for the plays will be "Blind Date," "Family 2.0," "Middle Kingdom," "If Men Played Cards As Women Do," "Hands On Anatomy," and "The Orphan Train," and there will be a five-minute intermission between plays. The performers for the one-act comedy, "If Men Played Cards as Women Do" are (from left to right) Alex Angell (George), Kenneth C. Barron III (John), Darren Smith (Marc) and Keion Legans (Bob). Written by George S. Kaufman in 1937, this play is a take on gender roles and how peculiar things would be if a group of men played a game of cards as a group of women would. Performance time is 12:30 Thursday, December 2. For more information please contact Wayne Bowman at [wbowman@ferrum.edu](mailto:wbowman@ferrum.edu)

photo courtesy of cast members

## Professor's 2007 project brings "Walden" to campus



Professor John Kitterman began the Thoreau-esque cabin project in a 2007 e-term English experiential course. Now students will benefit from the Thoreau "experience."

photo courtesy of Public Relations

**John Carlin**  
Public Relations Director

Ferrum College dedicated a replica of the cabin Henry David Thoreau

used as the basis for his classic work, "Walden," on November 10. The cabin is located behind the soccer and lacrosse practice fields on the western boundary of campus.

The project began in 2007 as a part of a three week English experiential "e-term" course based on the writings of Thoreau. Entitled "American Nature Writing," the hands-on course is taught by Associate Professor of English John Kitterman. "The idea was for me to assist the students in building a replica of Thoreau's cabin, while they also studied Thoreau's writings," Kitterman said.

Kitterman originally planned to build the cabin during the three-week course, using timber frame construction as did Thoreau, but the professor quickly learned his plan was overly ambitious. Even after reverting to more modern techniques, he realized the cabin would take much longer to complete. "The project became a passion," says Kitterman. "We worked on it here and there and waited until the course was offered again last spring to add the finishing touches."

The structure is a Spartan 10 x 16-foot single room with a fireplace and enough space for a bed, a table, and three chairs. As small as that sounds, it is a foot longer than Thoreau's cabin. It lacks Thoreau's root cellar, but Kitterman explains that this cabin,

like other replicas, is designed more to recreate the Thoreau *experience* than to reproduce the actual cabin. "The cabin's location in this natural setting can help students understand where Thoreau was coming from. It's a great way to capitalize on Ferrum's location in the Blue Ridge Mountains."

Kitterman is also writing a book about similar Thoreau-style cabins that are being built the world over. "The global community has become more and more interested in environmental issues and sustainability," Kitterman said, "and people from many disciplines—carpenters, artists, and educators, as well as naturalists—are going back to Thoreau for inspiration and advice." Kitterman remarks that in the first chapter of "Walden," Thoreau talks about how everybody should have the opportunity to build his own house. "The fact is that most people won't have that opportunity," he said. "But if Ferrum students spend time in the cabin and write about it, then we as educators have taken experiential learning to a different level."

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## 60 seconds with Dan Caston

**Kelsey Walters**  
Special to the Iron Blade

What are the first words that come to mind when you hear ‘Environmental?’ Hippie, vegetarian, liberal, naturalist, global-warming activist, or maybe “tree-hugger? Funny thing is, all these are generalizations. It is my contention that we should all be, in some form, a “tree-hugger” as part of our responsibility as the keystone species on earth. As part of humankind, we have an affinity to feel the most comfortable and safe when we are in a place that is green, alive and natural.

American landscape architect Andrew Jackson Downing, an early advocate of Manhattan's Central Park, wrote that an important purpose of city parks was "to soften and humanize the rude, educate and enlighten the ignorant, and give continual enjoyment to the educated"\* The Central Park project was advocated by conservative community leaders and members of the New York State legislature, many of whom felt it was important for workers to have a break from working in industrial settings.

Dr. Dan Caston, assistant professor of recreation leadership and coordinator of Ferrum Outdoors, commented recently on the importance of humans connecting with nature.

**Q: Why do you think it is important for us to be connected in some way, big or small, with our natural environment?**

**A:** In our world we have created structures that separate us from nature and this is connected to many of the ills of our society, such as obesity, stress-related issues, and attention deficit disorder. Because of this distance, we have forgotten our roots. We don't know where our food comes from, and we don't know how our water is cleaned, or the air. By reconnecting, even in the smallest way such as just hiking in the woods for a few hours, it allows us to see the big picture and the details at the same time.

**Q: How can these things benefit us physically, mentally, socially?**

**A:** Interacting with the environment encourages dynamic ways of physical development. Just the act of taking a walk encourages cardiovascular health and reduces stress by releasing

endorphins which helps to clean toxins out of the system. Mentally that same stress relief helps to clear the mind as we escape the structures of everyday life. Taking this one step further, turning off your cell phone encourages self-reflection. Socially, spending time in the outdoors with a friend or a group of friends simply can't be beat. Hanging out by a camp fire or exploring new areas promotes a sense of adventure within both the individual and the group. And finally, by engaging in and with the outdoors, we begin to see our place in nature.

**Q: What are some of the simple ways we can become involved or get outside?**

**A:** The simplest ways are to go for hike, go look at the beautiful leaves, gardening, stargazing, or just basically being outside. Even short periods of time outdoors is beneficial, but the longer you can spend, the better, because it is through immersion that we begin to forget ourselves and see the grandeur of nature.

**Q: If someone has not spent a lot of time outdoors, what do you suggest?**

**A:** Get involved with the Rec. Club or go on a Ferrum Outdoors trip. You could also get some friends together and go for a hike right here on campus. The important thing is to get out.

**Q: Why do you think people don't spend a lot of time outdoors?**

**A:** I think part of it is that people are scared of the outdoors because the media, movies, and cultural stigmas. The fact is that spending time in the outdoors is safer than driving a car or walking down the street. Also, there are many seemingly “easier” distractions, such as video games, movies, and social media, that, when combined with the fear issues, discourage participation in the outdoors.

Although it may seem like a big step in integrating the outdoors into a currently outdoors-less life, it is quite simple. Even by doing the smallest of activities outdoors, a person still benefits. We live in an area of Southwest Virginia that is graced with a beautiful landscape full of many opportunities to get outdoors, so get out there!

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## Movie Reviews

### “For Colored Girls” is a film for everyone

**Rena Holliday**  
Staff Writer

Tyler Perry is known for making serious but funny movies based on his own plays. Many say that his movies are relevant only to black audiences. However, his new movie, based on Ntozake Shange's play “For Colored Girls” (a series of 20 poems) is not just for African-American women.

This all-star cast features Phylicia Rashad, Janet Jackson, Whoopi Goldberg, Kerry Washington, Anka Noni Rose, Kimberly Elise, Loretta Devine, and Macy Gray, all of whom do an outstanding job playing their assigned characters.

“For Colored Girls” is inspirational, motivational, poetic, and sad all at the same time, which makes the movie great. The movie mentions many issues about abuse, teenage pregnancy, diseases, cheating, and rape.

The movie starts out by introducing the characters and their stories. The youngest character had big hopes and dreams of dancing and going to college, but all of that is ruined because she had sex with her long-time crush.

Kimberly Elise's character goes through what most women are going through and that is abuse, whether it was physical, verbal, or emotional. She had it worse than all the other women in the movie. This is Kimberly

Elise's best performance because you can feel the emotions her character goes through.

Janet Jackson plays a hard working, mean, and miserable character who went through a bad situation also, which was not only cheating, but a more serious situation.

There is also a woman in the movie who has a complete 180-degree switch, the dance instructor named Yasmine. She begins to date an innocent looking man but what she doesn't see is that this man is dangerous.

One of Yasmine's most memorable

see **GIRLS** page 4



### "Deathly Hallows - Part 1" continues the Potter magic

**LaShe V. Levicy**  
Staff Writer

“Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows - Part I” released Nov. 19, is the newest installment in the Harry Potter series. This movie is filled with excitement, wonder, and action-packed adventure. I would give the movie 4 out of 5 stars.

This feature film brings back all the familiar characters we know and have come to love over the years. Stars such as Daniel Radcliffe, Rupert Grint, Emma Watson, Bonnie Wright, Alan Rickman, Ralph Fiennes, Helena Bonham Carter, Tom Felton, Timothy Spall, and Julie Walters make this movie a magical experience for moviegoers.

This movie picks up right where the previous one, “Harry Potter and the Half Blood Prince,”

ended. The movie starts out with Voldemort and his followers, including Beatrix Lastrange, Draco Malfoy and Lucius Malfoy, as well as the ever-ambiguous Severus Snape, discussing their plan of attack to intercept Harry when he is being moved to a new location.

The following scenes show Hermione and Harry preparing for something in their own homes, yet it is not quite clear as to what's going on. That is, until many loyal friends from Harry's past, including Hermione and Ron, arrive at the Dursleys' house to move him somewhere safe.

As soon as they leave, they are bombarded by Death Eaters, and that prompts the real battle.

As the movie progresses, a series of events leave Hermione, Harry and Ron on their own journey to destroy all of Voldemort's



horcruxes and save everyone they love and the world they know from an ultimate evil.

This journey is not an easy one. Friendships are put to the test; loyalty is questioned, and the oh-so-ever-inescapable death are what awaits these three heroes.

Throughout the entire film, we see nothing but action and adventure. We are taken to some of most dramatic and beautiful places in the world through the cinematography of Eduardo Serra.

The director, David Yates, did a great job with this film. Although the plot get darker and darker film after film, Yates is able to capture the innocence and good within the main characters.

Sadly the last Harry Potter book is made into two parts for the screen. The second part will be released July 15, 2011.

After seeing “Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows – Part 1,” I think it will be worth the wait.

“Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows - Part 1” is rated PG-13.

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# Ferrum Forum

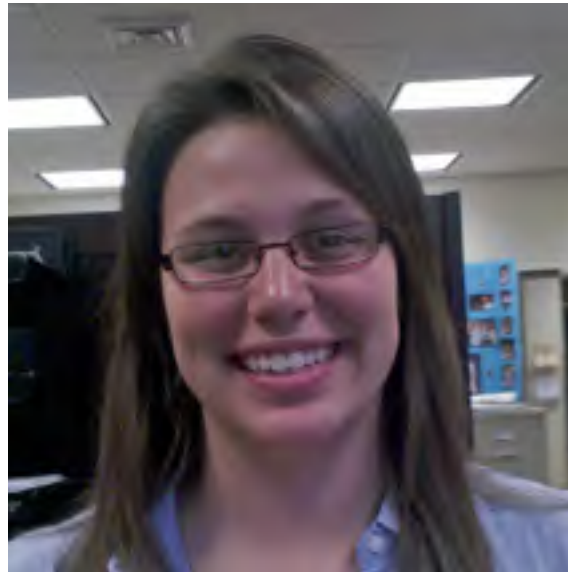
compiled by Chaz Pando

## Are you going to Snowball? What are you looking forward to most?



**Justin "Moose" Muse**

Yes, I will be attending. I'm looking forward to a good positive experience and fellowship amongst everyone attending. LET'S BOOGEY WOOGY GET DOWN!



**Felicia Wingard**

Yes, because I am excited to see everyone dressed up and having a ball. It will be great fellowship.



**Joemica Donaldson**

Yes, I'm looking forward to having fun with friends and making memories.



**Ashley Hostetter**

No, because it's money I could spend on my daughter instead. I am looking forward to Black Friday.



**Sam Richards**

I don't know yet. I don't have any money right now.



**Adeena Weekes**

No. I don't have any money and I am danced out.



**Charles Stith**

Probably not, depending on what I have to do. If I do go, I'm hoping they will have a good variety of music.



**Ashley France**

Yes, because it's my last year. I look forward to seeing everyone in their masks and the dancing.



**Dave Newcombe**

I am looking forward to Snowball. I am looking forward to dancing with my lovely wife and having fun with our students.

# Opinion/Editorial



## A farewell to "Paws"

**Glenn Thompson**  
Senior Staff Writer

The decision of what to write my last column about was not difficult. How to write it was a completely different story. I felt that I owed so much to so many, that like some jabbering awards ceremony recipient on television, I would blow it and forget someone—so I decided to forgo all of that. I decided instead, to talk to my peers, scholastically speaking. I leave you at Christmas, but return to burden the class of 2011 with my presence at the commencement. As I will not be the one who addresses you on that auspicious day, I wanted to take that opportunity here and now.

Commencement. A funny word, really. The name chosen for a ceremony of ending... means beginning. I wanted the oldest possible definition, so I researched through my collection of dictionaries, and settled on *Bellamy's Universal English Dictionary*, published in London in the year 1764.

Mr. Bellamy offers "A beginning," as his first definition, indicating he found it to be of the most importance. For all of us who accept the presentation of our degrees, it is a beginning. It is the beginning of true adulthood for most of you; some of us just never grow up. Whether you continue your education, or embed yourself in the world of money-making, this symbolic "passing of the baton" says that your time has come—this world, with all of its bleeding wounds and war-torn populations now belongs to you. Many join their voices with mine to ask that you be wiser than we were and take better care of the house where we all live.

For his second offering, our author writes "...a date, period, or epocha, from whence to reckon time." It will be that for each and every one of us... and those who follow. We can all think of it as the time in life when we stepped out and stood up for the things that our time at Ferrum has taught us are important. I challenged myself once to come up with the best

paraphrases for our college motto that I could—remember, I am old and boring. I finally settled on one, and have saved it for this, my last missive. The heart of it we all know, "Not self, but others." I would advise you to "Spend more time looking through windows than into mirrors." You join a world whose very survival depends on your dedication to the study of history. Someone once asked me what value there was to studying history. My answer was to point out the obvious. "To insure we don't make the same mistakes twice." That is the challenge you face in your "Not-so-Brave and definitely-not-New World." Regardless of your politics or creed, you are wise enough to recognize that there is no place in society for bigotry in any form, be it motivated by race,

misogyny, religion, or whatever. Finally, Mr. Bellamy gives us his third definition of commencement, "A convention of the heads of a university, where they confer academical honours upon the students." That too, we have here. If you receive honors at Ferrum, you have earned them. You will be pleasantly surprised at how much impact a degree from an institution such as Ferrum carries.

Studying at Ferrum is not only educational. If you allow it, it is enlightening. After a lifetime of learning, traveling, and even instructing, the professors here taught me what teachers truly are. Goodbye and good life.

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## Student Activities Calendar

compiled by **John Wells**  
Senior Staff Writer

### Tuesday, November 30, 2010

4:30 p.m. - 3 on 3 basketball signups, Franklin Hall Atrium  
7 p.m. - Women's Basketball vs. Peace College

### Wednesday, December 1, 2010

11 a.m. - Cancer Awareness, Franklin Hall Atrium  
4:30 p.m. - 3 on 3 basketball signups, Franklin Hall Atrium

### Thursday, December 2, 2010

7 p.m. - Gateway Poster Fitness Center  
7:30 p.m. - Ping Pong tournament, Fitness Center  
7 p.m. - Women's Basketball vs. Meredith College

### Friday, December 3, 2010

8 p.m. - Snowball Dance, Holiday Inn, Tanglewood  
9 p.m. - 3 on 3 basketball tournament, Fitness Center

### Saturday, December 4, 2010

9 a.m. - Open House, Panther Preview,

Franklin Hall  
9 p.m. - 3 on 3 basketball tournament, Fitness Center

### Monday, December 6, 2010

7 p.m. - Men's Basketball vs. Washington and Lee University  
7 p.m. - Lesson and Carols Vaughn Chapel

### Tuesday, December 14, 2010

7 p.m. - Men's Basketball at Bridgewater College

### Wednesday, December 15, 2010

6 p.m. - Women's Basketball at Piedmont College

### Thursday, December 16, 2010

2 p.m. - Men's Basketball vs. Piedmont College

### Saturday, December 18, 2010

1 p.m. - Men's Basketball vs. Lancaster Bible College  
3 p.m. - Women's Basketball at Lynchburg College

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Professor Karen Hiltz's students in Business 316 (Retail Management) had a special visitor on Nov. 12: Vicki Gardner, executive director of the Smith Mountain Lake Chamber of Commerce (center). photo by Karen Hiltz

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## Iron Blade Publication Dates Spring Semester 2011

January 25  
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March 22, 29  
April 5, 12, 19

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quotes is this one: "A rapist doesn't have to be a stranger to be legitimate. Someone you never saw. A man with obvious problems. But if you been public with him, danced one dance, kissed him goodbye lightly with a closed mouth, pressing charges will be as hard as keeping your legs closed while five fools try and run a train on you. These men friends of ours, who smile nicely, take you out to dinner,

then lock the door behind you..." This movie will bring tears to your eyes and an occasional laugh. It could possibly change your life or help you get out of a situation that frightens you. "For Colored Girls" is definitely for men and women of all races.

"For Colored Girls" is rated R.

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