



THE IRON BLADE

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57 Years of Ferrum College News

February 3, 2012

Spring Club Fair Showcases Campus Organizations

by Logan Bradt

On January 18 in the Panther Den, The Spring Club Fair was held. The halls outside and inside of the Panther Den were filled with clubs and organizations, and with seeking to join them.

Many people joined clubs because of close friends or other students that were in a club or organizations. Miranda Banks, who joined the Jacktales group and the Art Club, had this to say, "I Joined Art club because it's my major and Jacktales because it's what I grew up with." Overall though, everyone enjoyed themselves as they talked with friends about what clubs they joined.

The Jacktales is a group of actors acting out Appalachian folk tales and singing songs. It has been running for thirty-seven years. Their shows are, on average, about thirty minutes long. The group's activities are primarily directed towards younger children,

but they welcome anyone who wants to see their shows. They have several shows planned already; they are headed to Roanoke in February and Floyd in April.

Many know what the annual Haunted Forest is but many don't know that members of the Resident Hall Association are the ones that run the event. This club is for those who wish to be a RA and to get involved on activities on campus. If you wish to know more, contact your dormitory RA for more information.

The Rotaract clubs gets involved with community service, organizing food drives and fund raisers, and they help with Relay for Life. For Independence Day the Rotaract Club was in charge of fireworks that were showed at Franklin County High school.

The Student Government Association (SGA) is another great way to get involved on campus.

Among the prestigious positions to

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photo by Logan Bradt

Compressed Schedule for Annual Assessment Day

Student feedback and assessment results are important and are used in decision-making by many offices of the College. The compressed schedule for Friday, February 3 is intended to allow students to participate fully in assessment activities without missing any class time. Students are expected to check the listing on ANGEL for which assessments to take, according to their current class.

MONDAY-WEDNESDAY-FRIDAY	
Regular Time	Compressed Time
8:00 – 8:55	11:00 – 11:35
9:05 – 10:00	11:40 – 12:15
10:10 – 11:05	12:20 – 12:55
11:15 – 12:10	1:00 – 1:35
12:20 – 1:15	1:40 – 2:15
1:25 – 2:20	2:20 – 2:55
2:30 – 3:50	3:00 – 3:55
4:00 – 5:20	4:00 – 4:55

"Compressed Schedule" means that classes will be delayed until 11:00 a.m. and will then meet according to the above schedule.

Labs and studios observe converted start and end times. Students should select the compressed time that most closely coincides with the listed regular times above (e.g., a lab that regularly meets Mon. or Wed. 12:50-3:50 will meet 1:40-3:55 in the compressed schedule). Evening classes will meet at their regular times unless indicated otherwise. If the compressed schedule occurs on a Friday, the college meeting window will be 3:10-5:00 instead of 2:45-5:00.

The athletic practice window begins at 4 p.m.

Hip-Hop Violinist Josh Vietti Comes to Ferrum

by Laura Fryzel

On January 26 at 8:00 p.m. all the seats in the Panther's Den were full. All eyes were on the stage as the audience waited for the show to start. Josh Vietti stood before them all with his violin ready to begin.

Josh Vietti, from California, began playing the violin at the young age of 4 where he had a normal violin teacher. At 7, though, it was seen that with his talent he needed something more, but his violin lessons were expensive.

Vietti received a scholarship from the Maestro Foundation and attended the Los Angeles Philharmonic where he studied for 10 years. He then learned to play from Mischa Lefkowitz, a traditional, classical violinist from Latvia.

"He doesn't really approve of how I play," Josh said, "If it were up to him I'd stand in one place, like there's an invisible circle around me." That is much different than how he went about performing at the Panther's Den, moving from the stage through the audience; engaging and captivating them with his hip hop and pop

violin music.

That's right, hip hop and pop, not genres usually associated with the violin. Vietti's unique style of violin music, though different, was brilliant.

In 2006, after graduating from college, where he majored in communication with an emphasis on rhetoric, Vietti decided to make a career for himself with his music. He did many street shows and networked for many years.

On November 14, 2011 Vietti appeared on the Ellen DeGeneres Show where he played one of his original songs for her.

Many of the songs he played to the crowd in the Panther's Den were recognizable from pop culture, while others were his original songs. Students and Faculty members enjoyed the music and danced to what Vietti was playing.

"It was really fun" said Toresa, a student from Hollins University. "Amazing!" agreed her friend Kasumi. One student from Ferrum, Denzel Felton, even went as far as to say, "His performance was like the invention of sliced bread." **continued on page 4**

A Walk Through The Woods

Ferrum Professor shows very own exhibit

by Heather Flippen

On January 12, 2012 the E. Taylor Greer Gallery in Stanley Library welcomed an exhibit by Ferrum's own, Professor Matthew LaRose. As program director and associate professor of art LaRose does not just teach, he creates. Appalachian Spaces, a series of landscape paintings that takes the viewer on a walk through the woods, is the second exhibit by LaRose that has been featured at Ferrum College.

Landscape paintings never appealed to Professor LaRose before, but after creating a mural with students at Ferrum Elementary School two years ago he realized it could be enjoyable. "All artists have limits," he says, "I never wanted to paint landscapes." Although he found them to be commonplace he decided to take a chance. "I asked myself, "What if I...?", and that was it."

Inspiration came to LaRose in the form of local surroundings and throughout the evolution of his art he asked himself, "What sustains my gaze longer and can I work with a traditional motif that is also

personal?" The paintings that make up Appalachian Spaces were created with the help of photographs, but also from personal experiences and memories. One painting in the collection was influenced by a camping trip taken with his son. LaRose spent a year and a half on the paintings in his exhibition, sometimes working on as many as two or three at a time. "My mind is playing, associating, and trying to give meaning to something anecdotal," he says.

When it comes to his artwork LaRose does not form the contents of a painting around the title, but instead lets the name come to him afterwards. "Titles are evocative," he says, and this ideal is reflected through the intriguing labels given to a few of the paintings in Appalachian Spaces. For example, the painting entitled Red Riding Hood, due to the red stripe of color that seems like it would be out of place but instead blends well into the scene, is the result of what LaRose describes as realignment. "Sometimes a painting gets stale and you have to destroy it in order to fix it," he explains, "A painting

is realigned not to go back to what it was, but to make it better."

"This series of paintings has awarded me with the substance, the metaphoric content, while reinvigorating my engagement with the painting process," Larose says of the display. Freshman Ashley Lee specifically described the painting entitled Franklin County, saying "It is actually pretty cool. The colors are what interest me the most. I admire the talent it took and wish I could create something like that." It is possible for the paintings to be portrayed for what they are or as metaphors, but LaRose believes they are "open ended" so that the audience viewing can interpret for themselves. The exhibit will be open to students, faculty, and members of the community until Valentine's Day, February 14, 2012.



Library Renovation to Begin Summer 2012

by Shannon Spencer

This summer marks the start of the library's renovation of the stacks. Housed on both the upper and lower levels of the Stanley library, the stacks are an area filled with all the books that students can check out. These areas are now being used less due to the use of ebooks in the Ferrum catalogue. Roughly half of Ferrum's books are in fact ebooks.

Ebooks signify just how technological of an age we were living in and this new library renovation will embody just that. The library renovation will begin a "new-age" makeover. It will focus on creating more space for "research pods" like the Writing and English center on the middle level.

Library director George Loveland believes that education takes place through conversation. "There will now be more places in the library to encourage discussions between students" Loveland stated. Learning commons like the Writing and English center will now be found on the second floor to promote this new concept. The second floor will also hold two new classrooms as well as lounge areas, desks and whiteboards for additional help after class.

The next renovation will be downstairs in the Academic Resource Center. Ms. Crow the director of the ARC and E-terms had many new plans for the space. They've already changed the landscape by placing more round tables for small groups to meet. The ARC will become more informal and comfortable to serve as a designated place to get work done for the student body.

The library is being renovated to become the best environment to suit learning. It's changing to fulfill how students learn and want to learn. PALS will begin covering more courses and appointments can be made on-call. If some aren't comfortable with having a tutor study groups will be put together by a facilitator. The library is what we make it and ultimately being renovated to satisfy our student body. What would make the ARC inviting as a place to study? If you have any ideas please contact Randy Simpson at resimpson@ferrum.edu

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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.

Ferrum Outdoors Expands

by Nick Quinn

Ferrum Outdoors literally hit the ground running during the fall semester with exciting on-campus activities such as trail runs, mountain biking, bouldering wall sessions, night hikes and disc golf organized competitions.

The most popular of these was the night zip course where students were suspended 40 feet above ground in the trees traversing through different challenges and then leaping into the darkness down our 350-foot zip line. Participation levels have increased this year and Ferrum Outdoors was ecstatic to see the majority of all the programs filled within the first two weeks of school.

Even though Ferrum Outdoors enjoys playing close to home, going out on the road takes the organization places that can offer different types of adventures. Ferrum Outdoors organized a trip to the Wild Gauley River in West Virginia that is one of the top ranked rivers in the world boasting five class five rapids in a row. Students spent the day rafting these waters experiencing an adventure they could never forget.

Fall break sent a group of students all the way to Mathews, VA to explore the waters of the Chesapeake Bay on the Sea Kayaking trip. Students explored the water paths that weaved in and out of estuaries and the bay itself. Staying in a beach house on a private beach

overlooking the bay was a great escape from the busy fall semester.

The Adventure Programmer, Aaron Conover, is constantly bringing new events to the program. This year's excitement surrounds introduction of the Ferrum Outdoors Sailing Program. During the fall students were able to participate in two different scheduled sailing events, where they were taught professionally all of the basics in sailing at no expense. Ferrum Outdoors is planning to take students to Smith Mountain Lake during the spring semester as well.

Other new programs to look out for this spring include professional fly-fishing lessons, development of the Ferrum College Mountain Bike Team, newly developed trail systems, expansions to the climbing tower, and the new climbing instruction program entitled "From the Ground Up."

Ferrum Outdoors reaches out to the students. The organizations goal is to give everyone the chance to escape the everyday norm and to have a great time while getting an experience of a lifetime. If you would like more information about Ferrum Outdoors or the programs offered please contact the office at ferrumoutdoors@ferrum.edu, giving us a call at (540) 365-4325 or dropping by the office in the Fitness Center. You can also contact Aaron Conover at aconover@ferrum.edu.

Swim Season Ends With a Victory

by Shannon Spencer

Saturday, January 21, 2012 marked the last home swim meet for the Ferrum Swim Team. Every bleacher, bench or wall was filled with people eager to watch in anticipation at the Schwartz Gymnasium pool. The panthers pulled away victorious with a 99-66 win over Guilford College.

Ferrum started the meet taking the lead, in the second event Anneleisse Alvarez beat out her competitor by taking first place in her final lap for a win. The next event began quickly with Ferrum's Morgan Heath leading and keeping the lead well into the event. With waves splashing and the crowd cheering, Heath eventually lapped her competition and finished quickly.

Intensity struck when instead of just a one on one contest it switched to two versus two. Al-

though the competition was fierce, sportsmanship was easily noticed as competitors were seen talking and interacting. With the change of event Katie Blacher remained neck and neck to her competitor as teams and coaches shouted words of encouragement from the sidelines.

Suspense drew as the intermission ensued. At the sound of a whistle the quietness of the pool was once again filled with sounds of splashing and shouts from the onlookers. In the seventh event Ferrum lead the race and took home 1st 2nd and 3rd places.

Event nine brought disbelief when the trailing Ferrum panthers came back and took over the event. In the last race of the day, Ferrum and Guilford competed in a relay. Ferrum lead early and held on to it ending the meet with a win for the Panthers.

Ecotourism:

No Artificial Ingredients

by Mallory Taylor

Ecotourism is responsible travel to natural areas that conserves the environment and improves the welfare of local people. Ferrum College started offering the Ecotourism minor for the 2008-2009 academic year. Assistant Professor of Recreation Leadership, Jasmine Goodnow teaches all of the Ecotourism classes offered including this year's Experiential Term (E-Term) to Alaska. The course, Rec 391: Alaska Cultural & Heritage E-Term, will be a great hands-on experience for students to visit gold mining towns, cultural centers, and actively participate in sea kayaking, glacier hiking and white water rafting.

The Alaska E-Term is one of the many E-Terms that have been offered to students through the Ecotourism minor. In May of 2008, the first Ecotourism E-Term was taken to South Africa. For the past four consecutive years, Professor Jasmine Goodnow has sponsored various E-Terms such as Costa Rica, New Zealand, and now Alaska. These E-Terms have provided Ferrum College students with amazing learning opportunities that have made lasting impressions.

Angelina Baaklini, a current senior at Ferrum College, has been able to attend two Ecotourism E-Terms- one of those being to

Costa Rica. She says "Being able to experience another culture in its true form without distorting their values and beliefs is an amazing and liberating experience". Baaklini's testimony illustrates what students can take away from a Recreational E-Term experience. During Baaklini's course study in Costa Rica, she was able to learn about the BriBri culture based in the Talamanca Mountains of Costa Rica. She also was able to go to a women's chocolate cooperative where she met and talked with local Costa Rican women about their culture and way of life.

Ecotourism is an intriguing minor because it incorporates many major trends happening in today's society. Ferrum is one of very few colleges and universities offering Ecotourism in its curriculum. Today, ecotourism is gaining a greater foothold in the hospitality and tourism industry as sustainability issues must be addressed in all aspects of our life- at work, in our homes, and at play. The Ecotourism minor is made up of ten class options ranging from Ecotourism Administration to Community Tourism Development. Students are required to take at least 6 of the 10 classes offered or 18 credit hours to complete the Ecotourism minor. For more information contact jgoodnow@ferrum.edu.

MATH CENTER SCHEDULE

FALL 2011

MONDAY
10-11:15, 12:15-2:30

TUESDAY
11-12, 12:30-3:30

WEDNESDAY
10-11, 12:15-3:30

THURSDAY
9:30-10:30, 11-12, 12:30-3:30

CLOSED FRIDAY

The Tenacious Violinist

by Amber Stoakley

Thursday, January 26, Josh Vietti performed for a nearly packed house of Ferrum College students and friends. Josh Vietti graced Ferrum College with his hip-hop violinist talents. He moved the audience with a lot of hip-hop favorites from this generation. He used great audience participation skills and was very personable with each student. Justin Muse agrees the same, "I thought he did a splendiferous job and got the crowd engaged in his performance and that helps people enjoy the show. It was great that Hollins University came out to enjoy the show as well." Josh even called a couple of students on stage with him to sing. His crowd participation did not stop there as Josh dedicated Celine Dion's "My Heart Will Go On" from the "Titanic Soundtrack" to Ferrum College student Tamarra Grant, something she enjoyed very much, "I felt appreciated and I don't know how he knew, but he made me feel appreciated!". The highlight of the night was the acclaimed, "Dance - Off" with Justin Muse Ferrum College's own faculty member and Darren Smith a Ferrum College student. The two battled it out to a collaboration of songs by the late Michael Jackson performed by Mr. Vietti. Even though he



photo by Amber Stoakley

did such an awesome job with the crowd Vietti did not always work this type of crowd. And although he loves hip-hop now, it is not what he originally started

out playing. As he explained, "I first started playing classical" Josh Vietti began playing violin when he was four years old as he recollected on playing and practicing at such a young

age, "I hated practice growing up, I would even cry..I would rather be outside playing soccer, but I would say it definitely paid off". As a recent graduate of California State University: Long beach, Josh started out playing for crowds in the streets of Los Angeles, California. He was seen by a member of the famous hip-hop group, "The Ruff Ryders", and was later given the opportunity to record a track with him playing the violin. He has also worked with producers for Chris Brown. Mr. Vietti did not stop there as he explained how he has played for some of Hollywood's elite celebrities such as Clint Eastwood, "I no joke played in my t-shirt and jeans". Coming a long way from Los Angeles Josh could relate to the music so accustomed to the Ferrum area, "I love it, as you heard I did 'Devil Went down To Georgia'... I love blue grass music". Mr. Josh Vietti is a great inspiration to all of Ferrum College and its students. He went from performing on the streets of L.A. to performing for the elite of Hollywood as well as different colleges. It is always great to get out and join the activities on Ferrum College campus as this was an event no one should have missed. I think everyone in attendance can agree that we should definitely BRING JOSH VIETTI BACK!!

Spring 2012 Club Fair

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be held, such as President and Vice President, there is a new position available called the Public Relation Manager. His/her job is to get information out and make sure the students know what is going on and what the group is doing for them.

An example of that is that the SGA is trying to change the smoking policy, possibly increasing the distance one would have to be from a building to smoke, their primary concern is safety. They are also planning activities for those over the age of twenty-one to teach them how to drink responsibly.

Many can find the Ferrum Freaks are at many sporting

events supporting our Ferrum panthers. They are a spirit club, traveling with sports teams to cheer them on and show support for their fellow Panthers. They also organize pancake night, which they use to raise money.

For the Law majors, there is a new club on campus for you. Technically, it isn't formed yet, but joining is still an option. The goals of the club are to help Law students with their resumes, perform mock trials to help them practice, and even to help them determine if being a Lawyer is what they are interested in. They also plan to have regular workshops on Saturdays. For further information, contact Betsy Smith.

The Gospel Mime Ministry is a new club on campus, focusing on worship through miming. Their official name is Anointed and Unashamed. Though they

are new, they already have a concert planned on March 17, 2012 in Vaughn Chapel, where they will perform, not just miming but dancing to Gospel music as well. In the past they have traveled quite a bit, going to Washington D.C North Carolina, Maryland, and performing in and around Franklin County though they weren't a club, they were just churchgoers serving the Lord how they could.

Among all the clubs were sororities and fraternities in the Panthers Den as well. There were several seeking new members and had already planned activities such as philanthropies.

With all these clubs on campus, there are always activities to get involved with on campus. It's not too late to join a club, find one you're interested in, feel free to contact the Professors in charge, and ask about joining.

Josh Vietti

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To anyone interested in the pursuit of a musical career Vietti had these words of encouragement, "If you're really passionate and don't mind years of hard work, go for it. If you're not, do something, anything, else. [However] it really is rewarding if you stick with it."

After finishing his performance, students stayed behind to get their pictures taken, to get his autograph, and to just talk with him. While Vietti has played in many places all over the nation when asked where his favorite place he'd performed was he smiled and said, "Ferrum."