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57 Years of Ferrum College News
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Women’s Leadership Conference

by Shannon Spencer

The Women’s Leadership Conference was held March 15, 2012. It focused on transformations of Human Identity in the Twenty-first Century. The conference started in 1997. Its main goal is to “share the successes of Women leaders and to empower other women and men to assume leadership roles in their families, professional lives and communities.”

Martha Barnette, a cohost of radio show “A Way with Words” led the keynote address on how fast our English language is deteriorating; due to Facebook, twitter and email. Following the address was a staged reading of Cary Churchill’s play, “A Number,” about cloning and genetic engineering performed, by Zarla McRae and Ashley Elizabeth Taylor.

Next on the conference’s agenda was a panel on “Gaming in the Real World.” The panel included: Assistant Professor of Political Science, Ed Hally, author Lynn Salsi, and Brandi Locklear. The discussion was targeted on how, despite the common stereotype, gaming is not only good for wasting time but can instead have educational use. Dr. Ed Hally, a former elementary school teacher and a gamer for thirty years uses video games as an alternative to teaching.

“There is a perception that video games are not teaching,” said Dr. Hally. When traditional teaching methodologies don’t always work, video games may. Video gaming can be used in the class to engage students. Gaming is also good for teaching to different learning styles. Hally uses video games in his classroom to supplement what’s already being taught. For instance, Dr. Hally used a McDonald’s game to work with production, farming and industrial aspects of the business.

A separate game used to help teach is Spent, a game created by crisis ministry from Durham, North Carolina. The game shows students why people need assistance. In the game you must try to make ends meet while different situations are thrust at you. These stimulation games provide room for classroom discussion.

Governor Mark Warner intersected both gaming and politics by the keynote address on how far we have come and how far we have to go until Runnett Bag is where it should be.” The local Fraternity is trying to spearhead environmental involvement on campus.

SAK cleans up Runnett Bag Creek

The brothers and pledges of Sigma Alpha Kappa (SAK) recently participated in a project to clean up Runnett Bag Creek. The group picked up over 20 bags of trash from around the creek. Ferrum Senior and President of SAK, Will Moore said, “There is still a long way to go until Runnett Bag is where it should be.” The local Fraternity is trying to spearhead environmental involvement on campus.

SAK wants to show everyone that aren’t necessarily used to this particular environment. SAK has continued to participate in Community service opportunities. Recycling aluminum and Wood for Warmth are among the consistent projects done by the Fraternity.

“SAK wants to move into a more sustainable, environmentally conscious state of living,” Moore said. In the future, the Fraternity wants to participate in more clean-ups of local streams and forests. “We want to spread the green movement occurring on campus,” said Elliot.

SAK brothers and pledges gather for a picture after cleaning.

Photo by Matt Elliot

After Jack Performs for Women’s Leadership Conference

by Laura Fryzel

As part of the Women’s Leadership Conference, After Jack performed again at Ferrum College last Thursday, at 7:00 p.m. Many people came from off campus to join Ferrum students and hear Mary Allison, Rachel Blankenship, and Emily Tucker.

This performance was not the first at Ferrum College for the After Jack group, “I love them,” Amy Tomas, an audience member from off campus was happy to admit. “This is my fourth time seeing them, and it won’t be the last!” The group sang and played a multitude of instruments.

After Jack performed a fusion of music, including bluegrass, rock, folk, country, and gospel music as well as some songs that they themselves wrote. Audience members would get up to dance to the songs throughout the performance. Each of the girls sang beautifully, their voices ringing out in the Panther’s Den of Franklin Hall.

All three of the performers participated with the Jack Tale Players, and their name, After Jack, continued on pg. 4

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SAK wants to show everyone that protecting our community matters. “Living in a place like Ferrum we should be proud of our natural resources,” Moore said. Many of the brothers enjoy being outside; going fishing is among the favorites. “Runnett Bag is such a beautiful place”, Junior Matt Elliot explained, “We knew if someone took the time to clean it, it’d be worthwhile for us and everyone that wants to visit the creek after.”

Community service opportunities like these expose people
How to Be a Better Audience Member
A Guide to Good Theatre Etiquette

by Jordan Dear
Features Editor

Theatre etiquette is always a concern for any play, movie, or concert. The one thing that causes the most distraction is a cell phone. A cell phone can make a great device to communicate with others or it can be small, rude interruption. During a stage play is where it is distracting but also a danger. While audience members are watching a stage with lights, it can disturb their vision and focus because of the tiny blue light from phone screens. The light is annoying if it is next to you and in front of you. It also can be annoying from behind because of the clicking from that person texting. Not only does it take away from the audience’s focus, it also can distract the actor onstage.

Some professors even give their students extra credit if they see the shows. This is a great idea for students who want to experience theatre instead of a usual movie. Although some students do enjoy seeing the shows, there is also a group of students who are just there for the good grade. They stay on their cell phones throughout the show and also leave during the show, which also is rude and inconsiderate.

Senior theatre major, Kristy Bell has been involved with theatre for numerous plays. “Theatre etiquette is a concern. Audience members have an obligation to meet to the other actors, fellow audience members, and themselves. Audience members should be attentive and respectful while in the theatre. This includes before, during, and after the show. It is important to remember that a lot of people have worked long and hard on a production and rude behavior is disrespectful toward the actors and crew to their work. You don’t have to like a show to be respectful while you are there”.

While actors are performing, showcasing all of their hard work for the past months, they can see the phone light and it throws them off. It can also make the actor get out of character and forget a line because they become so angry because of the rude audience member. The actors are trained to see and block the stage with the stage lights. If there are random blue lights everywhere, they could forget where the end of the stage is and could be injured.

Theatre Professor Wayne Bowman watches every performance in the theater so he can see what parts of the audience are using their cell phone. “It is a pleasure to have so many students at the Theatre Arts Department performances. It is unfortunate that they feel the need to be in constant communication with their cell phones. Cell phones are distracting to other audience member and they are potentially dangerous to the actors on the stage. Often actors and dancers are required to do intricate movements that require complete focus. If the performers are drawn away from the moment on stage they are in danger of falling, or hurting someone with whom they are performing.

“The other issue with student audiences has been talking that takes audience members out of the play,” said Bowman. “Talking also distracts the performers, putting them at risk of being injured. In the cell phone – media generation people are not aware that coming and going during a performance can also be a problem. Being in the aisles during a performance can disrupt the action of the play. In modern plays that action often spills out into the auditorium. People in the aisles are in danger of being hurt, or hurting an actor who has been directed to enter through the audience seating area.

Professor Bowman continues: “The best advice I can give to someone who is seeing a play for the first time is to turn off cell phones before the play begins, refrain from talking during the performances and wait for intermission to enter, or exit the theatre. The students who are in the theatre, dance and music performances deserve our respect and cooperation for what they have accomplished in long weeks of rehearsal. If audiences will follow the guidelines outlined in this article they will insure that everyone has a night of fun and entertainment.”

If you are going to enjoy a play or show, please be respectful of everyone around you and on stage. It is important for the audience to watch the theatrical performance because they might learn something and enjoy it!

Annual Intercultural Festival: Celebrating Ferrum's Diversity
by Heather Flippen

There is no better way to celebrate the array of cultures that make up Ferrum College than by attending the annual Intercultural Festival. The event will take place on Tuesday, April 11 from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. in the Panther's Den.

Food, entertainment, international food, delectable d'oeuvres, and displays representing various countries and cultures will be available for students and faculty to explore.

For such a small campus we have a good deal of diversity,” says Professor Sasha Saari, Associate Professor of Russian and director of International Programs.

Ferrum's international students will make presentations on a variety of countries, including: China, Korea, Kenya, Ethiopia, Northern Ireland, Russia, and Spain. Faculty members and students that have been involved in study abroad programs and those that have travelled for E-term will also participate in the event.

The Intercultural Festival is not just limited to international cultures, but is devoted to Appalachian culture as well. The festival, which has been a popular occurrence on campus for numerous years, provides students and faculty an opportunity to learn more about the traditions and activities that take place in various locations all around the world. Last year’s activities included a performance of songs and recitation of poems from Spain, bamboo flute music from Korea, and a Chinese tai chi demonstration, as well as several other exciting presentations.

This year’s event is expected to be just as exciting. “It’s a lot of fun and the food is good, too!” says Professor Saari. For more information regarding the Intercultural Festival or to sign up for a display table please contact Sasha Saari at ssaari@ferrum.edu or Elaine Carter at ecarte@ferrum.edu.
FERRUM COLLEGE SPRING BIG CONCERT featuring...

WHEN:  Tuesday, April 3, 2012
WHERE:  Fitness Center
ADMISSION:  FREE for Ferrum College students. Tickets can be picked up at the Career & Leadership Information Desk beginning on Monday, March 26, 2012
GENERAL ADMISSION  Tickets are $20. Tickets can be picked up on Monday, March 26 at the Career & Leadership Center or you can purchase online now at ferrum.tickets.musictoday.com.

For more information visit www.ferrum.edu/campus_life/panther_press/big_concert.aspx or stop by the Career & Leadership Center in Franklin Hall.

After Jack Plays 15th Annual Women’s Leadership Conference

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pays homage to that association. They see it as the next step after the Jack Tale Players. They have recorded their own CD’s, featuring many of their songs that were sung at the Women’s Leadership Conference.

Mary Allison, Rachel Blankenship, and Emily Tucker are all very talented young women who, besides singing beautifully, can play a variety of instruments. Mary Allison, who graduated from Ashland University in 2009, plays the piano, bass [upright and electric] accordion, ukulele, guitar, and mandolin. Rachel Blankenship graduated from Radford University in 2009, and has been playing the fiddle since the age of five. She also plays the banjo, bass, guitar, and mandolin. She is also the tour manager of the Jack Tale Players. Emily Tucker has earned a B.A from Alfred University and an M.A from Union Institute and University. She plays the upright bass, guitar, oboe, accordion, and the piano.

The group was greeted with enthusiasm by the audience. Their voices harmonized together and the wide range of instruments used kept the performance interesting to the end. Although the songs were folk songs, and were sung as such, they were fun, something that even those who are not interested in folk songs could enjoy. Many of the songs had themes that are still relevant today. After Jack is a band that everyone should have the pleasure of hearing and enjoying while at Ferrum.
holding the first press conference in Second Life, a virtual world where gamers can gather. Warner also held a virtual campaign headquarters online. While intersecting both worlds does update politics to the twenty-first century, there are downfalls as well. Hackers and online vandalism take place all over games.

The second panelist, Ms. Lynn Salsi, teaches game design majors as well as digital storytelling narrative across media. Certain professors use gaming as a learning platform where students can join their teacher online. At Elon University, students may use a virtual world similar to Second Life to meet for class in a particular gathering place and time. “Games are no longer just for entertainment”, Salsi explained. “Professors use gaming to teach, they take class as if class were held in person and not online.” While gaming has many benefits, there are also negatives: for one, the fear that students aren’t doing their own work.

Brandi Locklear is a student at Ferrum College. Locklear specializes in MMORPG’s or Massive Multiplayer Online Role Playing Games. These games can include up to forty people that can play together at a time. Though some gaming uses may be pro-social when used in class, gaming may be considered anti-social as well. Video games don’t possess the same interaction as in everyday life. Although gaming is used for good, playing too many games can replace necessary human contact.

Gaming is used everywhere these days. From creating more jobs to product placement, games have recently adopted a bigger role in society. The military used first-person shooting games to teach combat fighting. Pilots and astronauts use gaming as well as students learning to become surgeons who use video games to improve hand eye coordination. Gaming as an alternative teaching method has potential and will be seen much more in the future.

The messages of the keynote speaker and panel discussants raised awareness of the transitional nature of twenty-first century human identity. This exemplifies the importance of the Women’s Leadership Conference at Ferrum College, and why it has become a strong tradition over the past fifteen years.

Leadership Conference
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An Interview with Former Irish Exchange Student
Patrick O’Connor

by Jon Sartell

Patrick O’Connor is a student from Ireland who studied at Ferrum for a year, back in 2009, is back in Ferrum. Patrick has currently just received a law degree from Belfast University in Ireland, and is now awaiting the results of the New York BAR Exam. I had the opportunity to sit down with the 23-year-old on, when else, then St. Patrick’s Day.

Q: How where you able to adapt in Ferrum as a student coming from Ireland?
A: “With the help of my super supportive international advisor Sasha Saari, my many great professors and Sigma Alpha Kappa, this wee area in Virginia became my home away from home.”

Q: Did Ferrum College have a factor in your law degree in Ireland?
A: “Yes, of course. Ferrum College helped me decide to pursue law, obtaining a legal practice license and gave me the confidence and guidance I needed.”

Q: Have you seen changes around the college campus since your time here?
A: “The first thing I noticed since I came back is how much bigger and better this college is getting. I see many new buildings from the last time here. I hope it continues to grow and prosper without losing its personality in the progress.”

Q: Patrick, it seems to be a trend that Ferrum has had Irish students who enjoy the college. Do you have any thoughts?
A: “For many years now Irish students who have attended this school have had nothing but good things to say about Ferrum and the hospitality of the local community. I am pleased to also find out that the BEI exchange program is still in operation and going strong, giving many other Irish students the opportunity to study at Ferrum, and hopefully have a spectacular experience akin to mine.”

Q: Do you have any other thoughts you would like to share with me about college life here in Ferrum?
A: “Well Jon, I feel these days a lot of students often say they can’t wait to graduate, however I found that college years where the best of years of all and shouldn’t be taken for granted, especially if you’re a Ferrum College Student. Although getting up early for class, doing online quizzes and pulling all nighters in the ARC might seem hard work is definitely worth it in the end. Well that’s enough from me I’m about to go get a fudderclucker at Happy Pappy’s”.

Q: Anytime, I would like to wish the current Ferrum students and alumni the best and once again would like to thank the college for all the amazing memories. Thank You.”
Ferrum College Students Use Spring Break to Live the College Motto “Not Self, But Others”

On Monday, the mission for the day was to help people fix up and maintain their houses. The group of eleven split up into two groups and went to two different sites. One group went to a house of an elderly Choctaw woman, which was being decayed by mold. The group power washed the mildew and then repainted the house. The other group went to an elderly Choctaw man’s house to restore his deck and paint an unfinished section of the house.

“The guys really are making Ferrum College proud,” Leader Billy Byrd stated, “I have never seen a group of students work hard for the good of others.”

For the next several days the mission group continued to serve the Choctaw community by holding a birthday party for a local Choctaw named Howard and his family. The group made hotdogs, hamburgers, and birthday cake. They then celebrated Howard’s birthday with a game of basketball.

Aside from the birthday party, the men of Ferrum College also helped clean and restore the United Methodist Center on the reservation. A day later, the group held a kids night at the center, which 70 children attended. The night was full of fun and food. The students made a spaghetti dinner and Billy Byrd lead a game of Sharks and Fishes, while other members of the group played soccer, basketball and kickball.

Before the group left they even attended the Choctaw Indian Museum to give homage to the culture of a people that had affected their lives in such a positive way over spring break. When asked about his thoughts on the mission, Chaplin Wes Astin stated, “The work accomplished at the Choctaw Reservation made such a difference in the lives of so many of our Choctaw brothers and sisters. To paint an entire house and finish painting a second one was a pretty remarkable feat for the group to undertake and complete. Of course the time spent with the children was so rewarding. The group learned so much about the children as they played, prayed and worked together.”

On the last day, the Missionary worker’s were overwhelmed with tears by the amazing and selfless work the group had done with their time on the Choctaw reservation. After a short prayer, and a thanks of gratitude the men loaded up the bus and headed back to Ferrum, leaving Mississippi with a piece of Ferrum College, the school motto, “Not Self but Others.”
Want to Change the World?!
It ALL Starts with YOU!

Stewardship toward Sustainability
FERRUM COLLEGE

Are you concerned about climate change?
Interested in green solutions?
Do you want to positive influence on future generations?
Do you want to make a living while still serving the earth community?

Earn a certificate in Stewardship toward Sustainability to complement your major!

This new certificate provides you the opportunity to expand your education beyond the boundaries of your major through an interdisciplinary exploration of the human/nature relationship. The curriculum integrates with and complements your major and focuses your thinking and passion toward addressing the complex ecological and social challenges of our time.

Completion of this certificate prepares students to become leaders in fields stemming from a multitude of sustainability issues including environmental justice, bio-cultural conservation, access to global commons, combating bio-piracy, valuation of traditional ecological knowledge, and many others.

Career opportunities include:
- Sustainability Coordinator/Director
- Green Technology Director
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- Sustainability Planner
- Climate Program Manager
- Environmental Project Manager
- Advocacy Campaign Organizer
- Cultural Resource Specialist

To get started in this certificate, sign up for SSC 290 Stewardship toward Sustainability Immersion course for fall 2012. In this course we’ll explore deep ecology principles, ecopsychology, and environmental ethics while fostering a full examination of your ecological self. Through a variety of immersion experiences, we will connect in deep and meaningful ways with the natural environment.

Other requirements for this certificate are accomplished through a combination of selected courses within your major and the liberal arts core, sustainability seminars, and a senior capstone course that ties everything together.

For more information about this exciting new certificate, please contact Dan Caston, Stewardship toward Sustainability Certificate Coordinator, dcaston@ferrum.edu, 365-4442, or Library 308.

Panther All Stars:
A Softball Preview
by Briana Johnson

The Lady Panthers Softball team are currently 20-4, and off to their best start in the history of Ferrum College. From doing well during the start of the regular season, to having an outstanding trip to Florida, the softball team are exhibiting what it means to be a Panther athlete.

"Obviously I am extremely pleased, but not surprised, several key players are juniors and seniors, and we are playing at the level you would expect juniors and seniors to play," said Head Coach Vickie Van Kleeck, after being asked how she feels about the team’s success so far. "Also there is a lot of talent, and most of all the team has great chemistry. I’m really proud of them.”

In preparation for the season the ladies started four weeks of practice in the fall, which led up to a small tournament in October. Throughout November and December the team would then participate in weight lifting and other forms of conditioning. Finally after winter break the team would immediately begin with full practices.

The practice obviously paid off with the team being 14-2 and posting a 9-1 record at the tournament in Florida.

While in Florida the team faced off against teams who were in the regional tournament last season, despite the Lady Panthers not participating in the tournament themselves. This wasn’t a problem, however, as the team outscored their opponents 67-18. In the only game they lost in Florida the final score was 2-0.

With such a great start to the season, the team would have to be geared up for the remainder of the season, due to conference place, which consists mostly of conference games.

"When you start out with success you become more confident, we believe we will be very successful this season and we’re looking forward to it.” Coach Van Kleeck said regarding the remainder of the season.

The Panthers Softball team hasn’t won a conference tournament since 2005; however with a start such as the one they have this season, don’t be surprised when they walk away this season with another conference title.
The Jack Tales Saga

by Amber Stoakley

Jack Tales has entertained us all over the years. From the high rhythm dance to the energy filled stage performances, Jack Tales is a show unlike any other. The Ferrum College Jack Tales got its start in 1975 and has been a hit ever since. Starting from a small grant provided to the arts department, Rex Stephenson, professor of drama at Ferrum College and the director and writer of Jack Tales, has turned it into a phenomenon. Stephenson explained how it all actually began, “When my daughter was in the 4th grade her teacher had been reading Jack Tales and she brought it home one day. I used to read to her in different voices and as I was reading I thought that this would make a great play.”

The cast consists of a number of devoted Ferrum College students who have a love for the arts. Some of these students include Chris Wolfe and Ashlee Heyward. Both Ashlee and Chris expressed their favorite experience from the Jack Tales.

Ferrum College Shifts Into a New Gear

by Jon Sartell

Ferrum College is one of the newest members to the online job site Career Shift. Career Shift, is an online job search engine. The search engine is made up of a set of integrated applications proven to help job seekers, especially new college graduates, successfully find employment. The Career Shift search tool returns results from every career site and job board. Not only does the site offer the simple option of a quick search, the program saves and organizes all the relevant jobs that meet your search criteria, whether you search by job title, company name, keywords, or location. Named “The best job search tool on the Internet”, Career Shift is available to every Ferrum College student and alumni free of charge. Simply go to www.ferrum.edu/career_services/employment_search, click on the Career Shift link, sign up and log in.

As a senior graduating in May, I personally use the Career Shift program. Signing up is simple and free, two major reasons why the site is a no brainer for the college student. Not only is the site easy to access, maintain and sign up, Career Shift offers a multitude of user friendly options. First, the site helps you stay organized in your searches. Users are able to save and organize lists of companies and contacts that are related to their own personal field of employment. Career Shift’s patent pending software technology provides information from millions of businesses and contacts, which even includes cross referenced job postings. Secondly, Career Shift provides you with a document wizard for creating resumes, cover letters, or any other business document you may need. While using the program I personally felt the wizard a bit hard to use at first, however the site also includes tutorials for every program and feature within the site. After going through the tutorial I felt very comfortable and confident with the program.

Aside from the wizard, you can also upload your own documents and easily access them from any location, at any time. My absolute favorite option using Career Shift is that the site allows you to not only send your resume, but you may send it to your own personally selected companies and contacts by direct mail or email. Career Shift then automatically tracks actions in your campaigns, and keeps relevant notes so you can stay on top of your job search. Whenever a campaign or networking is made, Career Shift automatically sends you a reminder email, another immense help the busy student, so that you can follow up with the prospective employers.

Lastly, the My Calendar tab allows you to set appointments, events, and other reminders, according to your unique desires and needs. The Career Shift program is a must for any student preparing for graduation and a career. I strongly recommend this program to all of my fellow Ferrum College students. The easy to use programs and searches make jobs and companies easily accessible. With the use of the program, I have personally networked and contacted more than five companies in as little as a week; www.CareerShift.com is the real deal.
The Ferrum College Theatre Arts Department
Proudly Presents

Seussical
The Musical
By Stephen Flaherty and Lynn Ahrens
Directed By Emily Rose Tucker and Susan Spataro

March 22, 23, 24  7:30 P.M.
March 25                2:00 P.M.

Sale Theatre
7 dollars for adults
6 dollars for children, senior citizens, and outside students.
Ferrum College students, faculty and staff are free with proof of current ID.
We accept donations of non-perishable food on behalf of the St. James Food Bank.

Stephen Flaherty and Lynn Ahrens’s Seussical is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI.
421 West 54th Street, New York, NY 10019
Phone: 212-541-4684  Fax: 212-397-4684
www.MTIShow.com

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6 dollars for children, senior citizens, and outside students.
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