Anniversaries, milestones and achievements! We have devoted this Winter 2004 issue of FM to the celebration of those things that are at the very heart of the Ferrum College experience - our extraordinary programs, initiatives, and most of all, people.

Twenty-fifth anniversary congratulations are in order for our acclaimed Blue Ridge Dinner Theatre. The Ferrum College football program is in its 50th year, and our student newspaper, the Iron Blade, will mark its 50th year of publication in the spring.

Several notable milestones are featured in these pages. The USDA-funded building initiative that was introduced to you in the spring 2004 issue of FM now has a name, “Ferrum PLUS!” (Project Leading to Undergraduate Success). Bids have been solicited for construction on two new residence halls and the renovation and refurbishing of several historic buildings as well as Franklin Hall. Ferrum’s first-ever adult degree completion program was officially launched this semester at the Roanoke Higher Education center, a significant event in Ferrum history, and the Virginia Center for Criminal Justice Studies at Ferrum College is another major initiative that has come to fruition this fall, helping to raise awareness of Ferrum in the law enforcement community throughout the region and the state.

The achievements of our incredible alumni continue to make Ferrum proud. Paul L. Harris ’65 is the first alumnus in College history to become chair of our Board of Trustees, and we have a total of twelve alumni serving at this time on the Board. You will learn more about Paul Harris in this issue as well as other successful alumni who are also featured.

It is truly humbling for me to realize that not one of these significant events would have occurred without the vision of the United Methodist Women of the Virginia Annual Conference, the commitment and dedication of our Ferrum College faculty and staff, the enthusiasm and hard work of our students, the generosity and support of our Ferrum College alumni and friends, and uppermost, the blessings of our Lord, from whom all good things come. We are a truly fortunate community and I thank all of you who continue to make all things possible at Ferrum.

Jennifer Broader
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The exciting new construction and renovation projects will begin this winter after a season of intense and careful planning. In addition we will welcome new and returning students, we will welcome construction workers and heavy machinery as our USDA building and renovation project gets underway in January. This initiative has been named “Ferrum PLUS!” for Project Leading to Undergraduate Success! Dr. Jennifer Braaten commented in a Fall issue of Fe, the Ferrum e-Newsletter, “The new and renovated facilities that will be the end result of these efforts during the next two years will dramatically enhance the face of the campus and provide our students with even more state-of-the-art facilities and opportunities, all designed to further our goal of providing each and every Ferrum College student with a successful educational experience.” Ferrum College retained the architectural firm Hanbury, Evans, Wright and Vlattas of Norfolk, VA for the project. The projects are scheduled to be completed in 2006 after an intensive 24-month period of expansion timed to keep interference with campus activities to a minimum. The effort will include two entirely new 50-bed residence halls. The interiors will contain apartment-style living spaces and community areas while keeping with the classic look of the college. Franklin Hall, located in the heart of the Ferrum College campus, will be transformed into a multi-level alumni and student center. The expanded facility will include an alumni convention center and an internet-café. Other improvements to Franklin Hall include new offices and exterior enhancements. Beckham and Roberts Halls, two of the campus’ oldest buildings, will also be renovated. Beckham Hall will receive its second major renovation, updating classrooms with state-of-the-art technology and a more efficient use of overall space. The unique exteriors of both buildings will be preserved.

Ferrum College President Jennifer Braaten, members of the Board of Trustees, Congressman Virgil Goode, Delegate Allen Dudley, the USDA Virginia Director for Rural Development Joseph Newbill and USDA representatives broke ground the day before Commencement on $14 million worth of campus improvements funded by a unique USDA loan. The new construction and renovation projects will be paid for with one of the largest USDA loans of its type for higher education and the largest ever given to a single institution in Virginia. These ambitious construction projects will result in new and improved facilities across campus in the first such comprehensive enhancement of multiple areas of campus since the 1960s.

Ferrum College and the United States Department of Agriculture were praised by attending guests and through letters from Virginia officials. Congressman Goode remarked in his keynote address that the receipt of the USDA loan marked a “red letter day” for Ferrum College. Senator John Warner said via letter that these improvements would make Ferrum a “star of Virginia.” Dr. Braaten also read a letter of congratulations from Senator George Allen.
Dr. Lee King Returns to New Post at Ferrum

Ferrum College announced in July that Dr. Lee King would return to Ferrum College as Vice President for Institutional Advancement. Dr. King left his role as the Executive Director of the Patrick Henry Boys and Girls Plantation in Brookneal, VA to rejoin Ferrum College in August. Prior to his appointment at the Plantation, Dr. King was Associate Vice-President for Development at Ferrum College.

“It is with great pleasure that I welcome Dr. King back to campus during this exciting time of new initiatives and endeavors for Ferrum College,” said Dr. Jennifer L. Braaten, president of Ferrum College. “His skills and leadership are a perfect fit for the College and Institutional Advancement in particular. Lee returns to us with the enthusiastic support of those who worked with him before in Institutional Advancement.”

Dr. Leslie T. Lambert Named V.P. for Academic Affairs & Dean of Ferrum College

This fall students were welcomed to campus by a new Dean of The College and Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dr. Leslie T. Lambert. Dr. Lambert previously worked at Roanoke College as Professor and Director of the Center for Education and Innovation in the Liberal Arts at Roanoke College in Salem, VA.

“I am thrilled by the opportunity to be joining Ferrum College at such a promising time in the institution's history. The excitement, optimism and energy are palpable. As I have had the opportunity to meet the people who embody what is Ferrum College, I have been drawn in consistently by the sense of place and the level of commitment they share. These impressions have communicated the deep and abiding values that frame the core of the Ferrum College experience. The sense of place and the clarity of mission are sharp and resonant,” Dr. Lambert said.
Summer Brings Adventure to Faculty & Staff

This past summer has been one of the busiest summers in recent memory for Ferrum College faculty and staff. Among the trips: Dr. Jennifer Braaten and Chaplain Wes Astin were joined by 38 other Ferrum guests on a cruise to the Caribbean in July; Dr. Cy Dillon spent three weeks studying the theory of autobiography at the National Humanities Center as a participant in a Jessie Ball duPont Summer Seminar; Dr. Rathin Basu made two extensive trips abroad, one a Fulbright-Hays Summer Seminar Abroad to China entitled, "China: Social Trends/Popular Culture" and an ACA Shadowing Grant trip to India; Public Relations staff attended the MacDesign Conference in Chicago; Todd Fredrickson and three students - Adam McNeil, Shawn White, and Matt Dittler ’04, went on an ACA-funded trip to Bolivia with other ACA faculty and students; Dr. Richard Smith visited Vietnam and Cambodia for research; Tina Hanlon and Sasha Saari traveled to Russia where they also met with former Ferrum exchange students from Pskov (Dr. Saari was also honored in Pskov for her efforts to promote the program). In addition to research trips to the Appalachian Trail, Bob Pohlad and Dr. Carolyn Thomas attended the Ecological Society of America Meetings in Portland, OR to present a paper and took a trip to prepare for a sabbatical for the spring at the University of Ulster in Coleraine, Ireland; Professor Ed Gloria took Ferrum students Travis Dean and Joey Conger to Italy (primarily Florence and Rome); Kevin Reilly presented two papers at the American Psychological Society in Chicago, including one entitled Taming the Serpent: Treatments for and Moderators of Snake Phobia which he co-presented with Michael Coleman ’04; Ms. Sheila Nelson-Hensley and Ms. Heather Hollandsworth attended the NASFAA (National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators) Conference; Dr. Marcia Horn visited Spain on an ACA grant for faculty development to study "The Heritage of Spain’s Three Cultures: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam"; Dr. Jim Bier realized a life-long dream to travel in New Zealand which he did with a Habitat for Humanity Global Village Care-a-Van build project; and closer to home, Dr. Daryl Nash and two Ferrum agriculture majors, Derek Ritenour and Dave Evans, attended the 1st Annual Career Show at the 76th Annual Virginia FFA Convention at Virginia Tech.

Ferrum.edu Gets Facelift, New Features

In an effort to provide even more great features and trumpet the events and happenings at Ferrum College, the Public Relations Department launched a re-vamped Ferrum College website, www.Ferrum.edu in mid-summer, to great reactions. New features available on the front page include an interactive calendar, several new mini-sites and a sleek new design.
On CAMPUS

Ferrum’s 88th Commencement Honored Students, Faculty & Alumni

Under sunny skies and alongside Adams Lake, 150 men and women graduated at Ferrum College on May 8, 2004 in a commencement ceremony led by Dr. Jennifer L. Braaten, presiding over her second graduation ceremony at Ferrum.

Dr. Braaten addressed the assembled graduates and their families and friends on their accomplishments and the road ahead. On the Ferrum experience she noted the three dimensions of the Ferrum College community, “scholarly, faith and service.”

Gathered guests also heard encouraging words from keynote speaker Virginia State Senator Charles Hawkins and Senior Speaker Sam Ragsdale of Midlothian, VA. Hawkins, a Senator from the 19th District since 1992, also served in the House of Delegates from 1982 to 1992. Ragsdale graduated with a major in Environmental Science and a minor in Biology and will be attending VCU Grad School to study Urban and Regional Planning.

Ferrum honored the achievements of students, faculty and alumni at the event. Awards presented to students include: The James T. Catlin, Jr., Citizenship Award, given to Charles Crabtree, Jr. of Salem, VA; The Arthur S. Owens Leadership Award, given to Joanna L. Bosik of Wilmington, DE; and The Senior Academic Excellence Award, given to Tonya Renee Kiefer of Hampton, VA. The Cheatham Fellowship was given to faculty member C. James Bier of Ferrum, VA. The Beckham Medallion, Ferrum’s highest alumni honor, was awarded to Walter C. Boyd ’49 of Elon, NC.

For the second year in a row Ferrum’s Commencement was broadcast live over the internet to dozens of listeners through FerrumRadio.com.

Boone Honors Program Produces First Graduates

The first three students of Ferrum College’s Boone Honors Program graduated with the addition of a special medal to their already impressive credentials. Crystal Hutchens, Sabrina Tribbett and Sandra Via all graduated at the top of their class after completing their study in only three years. The Boone Honors Program, directed by Dr. Dave Howell, is a liberal arts program for academically advanced students that promotes the exploration of multiple disciplines. Students participating in the Boone Honors Program take courses outside of required courses. In addition, the students have to “honors” enrich twelve credits of their other courses by adding extra components, such as papers or projects. The program’s namesake is attributed to former President Jerry Boone and his wife Shirley. Dr. Boone retired in 2002.
Virginia Center for Criminal Justice Studies Established at Ferrum

Ferrum College has established the Virginia Center for Criminal Justice Studies to provide the criminal justice community with unique education and training programs, professional development opportunities, and specialized agency assistance. The Center will consist of four primary programs: the Ferrum College Undergraduate Baccalaureate Degree in Criminal Justice, The Rural Criminal Justice Research Institute, a Criminal Justice Speakers Forum, and The Law Enforcement and Emergency Responders Professional Development Institute. In association with articulation agreements developed with area community colleges to facilitate transfers into Ferrum’s newly energized Criminal Justice program, these initiatives united this fall to formally debut as the Virginia Center of Criminal Justice Studies. You can find out more about this exciting center on the web at: www.VirginiaCenterForCriminalJustice.com

Zuschin Attends Institute for Women in Higher Education

Andrea Zuschin, Assistant Vice President for Student Services at Ferrum College and Director of the Student Success Center, attended the Summer Institute for Women in Higher Education Administration sponsored jointly by Bryn Mawr College and Higher Education Resource Services (HERS), Mid-America. The residential program was held June 27 through July 23, 2004, on the Bryn Mawr College campus. The 55 participants were from 29 states and Nigeria.

The Summer Institute was established 29 years ago to improve the status of women at the middle and executive levels of higher education administration, levels at which women traditionally have been underrepresented. The curriculum places special emphasis on the growing diversity of both the student body and the work force. Participants in the program are provided with skills and information pertinent to the management and governance of colleges and universities and with timely information and perspectives on teaching, research and service. The stimulating college environment encourages participants to tackle new projects and seek out new knowledge.

BRI Work Honored at White House Ceremony

President and Mrs. Laura Bush presented a Preserve America Presidential Award for Heritage Tourism to the Blue Ridge Heritage Initiative at a White House ceremony on May 3. Ferrum College’s Blue Ridge Institute and Farm Museum were among those honored for their work on the Blue Ridge Music segment of the Blue Ridge Heritage Initiative. Blue Ridge Institute Director Roddy Moore, Assistant Director Vaughn Webb and Ferrum College President Jennifer Braaten accepted the award.

Center: Rev. Conrad Braaten, Ferrum President Jennifer Braaten & Roddy Moore with other recipients at the White House.
Ferrum College Begins Degree Completion Program in Roanoke

Beginning this fall, Ferrum College offers degree completion programs at the Roanoke Higher Education Center for two bachelor’s degrees: Business Administration with an emphasis in Management, and Criminal Justice. With the appropriate number and type of prior college credits transferred to Ferrum College, students may complete a bachelor’s degree in fewer than 18 months. In keeping with an applied liberal arts education, the curriculum emphasizes a broad array of perspectives while focusing on career enhancement. The dynamics of the classroom are based on applying theories and concepts to real-world settings. Student experience and faculty expertise are integrated to create a stimulating learning environment differing from the traditional lecture format. The degree completion process requires the following hour totals: Criminal Justice major, 45 semester hours; Business Administration with an emphasis in Management major, 52 semester hours. All classes are held at the Roanoke Higher Education Center.

NEH Institute

Ferrum College hosted its second National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Institute for College and University Teachers June 3-29, 2004. From a range of disciplines and at both campus and community locations, the Institute examined Appalachian issues that link regional study to the liberal arts. Leaders chose participants from many regions of the country, not just Appalachia. The 25 teachers selected for the NEH Summer Institute, “Regional Study and the Liberal Arts: Appalachia Up Close,” received stipends of $2,800 each. Institute faculty and staff are Cece Conway, Stephen Fisher, Tina Hanlon, Patricia Johnson, Clyde Kessler, George Loveland, Ralph Lutts, Susan Mead, Roddy Moore, Robert Morgan, Anita Puckett, Franki Patton Rutherford, Crandall Shifflett, Lee Smith, Carolyn Thomas, Altina Waller, Vaughan Webb, and Daniel Woods. NEH Institute Director Pete Crow was named Outstanding Educator of the Year in 2003, an award given to teachers in United Methodist-related schools who have made an extraordinary impact on their students, peers, the institution, church and community.

Racing & Rodding Remembered

The Blue Ridge Institute and Museum at Ferrum College hosted an afternoon Racer’s Reunion on September 25th in conjunction with their new exhibit, Car Crazy: Racing and Rodding in Southwest Virginia. Oval Track, Drag Race and Moonshine Runners were on hand for fellowship and exchange of stories.

Stanley Library News

This summer Ferrum’s library migrated to a new integrated library system, sharing an Innovative Interfaces system with 11 other ACA colleges including Maryville College and the University of Charleston. There are already 17 additional participants possible among the ACA institutions, allowing Ferrum the potential to become one of the largest group catalogs in higher education. Cy Dillon has served as a Council Member for the ACA Central Library, and chairs the Shared Catalog Committee.
Mrs. Thelma B. Crowder of South Boston, VA is a member of the Virginia Conference of United Methodist Women, serving on their Conference Nominating Committee. She is a retired public school teacher and high school librarian with bachelor and master’s degrees from Duke University. She has served on the Board of Visitors for Duke Divinity School and the Board of Trustees of the Old Rectory in Epworth, England. Crowder is a member of Delta Kappa Gamma and also serves as the Southeastern Jurisdiction United Methodist Historical Society President.

Mrs. Elizabeth T. “Ibby” Greer is a resident of Rocky Mount, VA where she is a writer, publisher of books and the Blue Ridge Traditions Magazine, and bookstore owner. Greer has a B.A. from Hollins College and an M.A. from the University of Colorado. She has served on the National Women's Council for the Women's Center of the University of Virginia, as State Chair for the Virginia Daughters of the American Revolution's Public Relations Committee as well as the Henry Corbin Chapter, Colonial Dames XVII Century-Danville, and the Town and Country Garden Club of Roanoke.

Bishop Charlene P. Kammerer, recently announced Bishop for the Virginia Conference of the United Methodist Church, lives in Glen Allen, VA. A former Campus Minister at Duke University, Kammerer has an A.B. from Wesleyan College, a M.A.C.E. and M.Div. from Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary and a D.Min. from United Theological Seminary. She serves on a number of boards including the Board of Trustees at Randolph-Macon Academy, Randolph-Macon College, Randolph-Macon Woman's College, Shenandoah University, Virginia Wesleyan College, and Wesley Theological Seminary. Kammerer is a member of the General Board of Discipleship and the Task Force of the Bishops’ Initiative on Children and Poverty.

Mrs. Peggy A. Oakes of Dry Fork, VA is a member and President of the Danville District of United Methodist Women. With a B.S. and Paralegal Certificate from Averett University, Oakes is an Office Manager with Danville Pathologists, Inc. She is a member of the District Nominations and Facilitations committee for the United Methodist Church, the Henry Fork Service Center Board, and the Council on Ministries, Finance & Pastor/Parish Committee at Grace-Design United Methodist Church.

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The New Chair

In this season of commemorating milestones, Ferrum College celebrates the election of the first member of our alumni family to be named Chair of the Board of Trustees.

Behind the thoughtful smile of Paul Harris ’65, you will find a man with a deep affection and appreciation for his alma mater. Harris left his native Richmond to begin his student life at Ferrum in the summer of 1963. This would mark the first of many journeys, both personal and professional, that Harris would embark on in the years to come.

Like many in the alumni family, Harris was introduced to the College by a pastor in his church. After a visit to campus to meet Dean Sandridge, Harris weighed the advantages of staying close to home versus accepting Ferrum's offer of admission. The potential for personal growth within a residential campus community, as well as opportunities for semi-independent living, building relationships with new people, focusing on academics, and involvement in athletics persuaded Harris to choose Ferrum.

The opening of the fall semester in 1963 was pushed back by several weeks due to delays in construction of Chapman Hall. In order to meet the necessary credit hours by semester’s end, students were required to continue classes during what would have typically been their Thanksgiving break. On Friday, November 22, Harris' day began like most others. After French class, he packed up his books and was making his way back to Riddick Hall when he heard the news of President John F. Kennedy's assassination. Harris and his classmates would gather a few days later in Riddick Hall to watch the funeral procession on the dorm's single black and white television. This is one of many vivid memories Harris has from his time at Ferrum College.

An active presence on campus, Harris played on Colonel Bud Skeens’ first tennis team at Ferrum. Lu Merritt ’65 fondly remembers Paul as someone who was, “...popular around campus and fun to be around. He was also well-liked among his teammates and was a real team player. I was pleased to learn about his selection as Chair.”

Upon graduation from Ferrum with an Associate of Arts degree in 1965, Harris returned to Richmond to continue his education. He earned a degree in Accounting from the University of Richmond in 1967. While at UR, Harris met Susan Lee and they married in 1969. Following college, Harris enlisted in the Air National Guard, serving eight months of active duty and five years of reserve duty.

After completing his active duty assignment, Harris pursued a career in business and financial management by accepting a position with Price Waterhouse in Washington, DC. After six years with the company, Harris was recruited by British Aerospace North America Inc., a major international aerospace corporation whose core business is defense and commercial aerospace.

In 1988, Harris accepted the role of Finance Director of the Commercial Aircraft Division of British Aerospace, PLC, and the Harris family relocated to London, England. He regards this move as “...one of the most significant events that has happened to me and something I would have never dreamed of while a student at Ferrum. We were able to travel easily in Europe so we took advantage of this by visiting many counties and experiencing different cultures.”

This opportunity to experience the world was the chance of a lifetime; the Harris family traveled to many European countries and spent a Christmas holiday in Egypt. Their journeys around the globe resulted in numerous lifelong friendships for the Harris family. Working for an international company also offered Harris the chance to meet dignitaries such as future president Bill Clinton, then Governor of Arkansas, and Queen Elizabeth II and Princess Anne of Great Britain.

Upon returning the United States in 1992, Harris held the role of Senior Vice President and General Manager of British Aerospace's North American Operations where he was responsible for managing the company's U.S. business. He retired from the company in 2000 after 25 years of service.

Of his new role as Ferrum College Board Chair, Harris says, “It has been a pleasure to be on the Board for the last four years and an honor to have recently been elected its Chairman. I have been thrilled to see how Ferrum has grown from the junior college I attended to the four year institution that it is today. I still see the same dedication of the faculty and staff that was there for me when I attended.”

“The future of Ferrum College is very bright. Projects like FerrumPLUS! and the Virginia Center for Criminal Justice demonstrate the progress and the commitment that all of us have to the college. We want to build our reputation for excellence always remembering our motto 'Not Self, But Others' and distinguish ourselves in the field of higher education.”

“To the current students at Ferrum I would hope that you will take advantage of all the opportunities that student life offers. Ferrum will always be a part of you and you will always remember your experiences, your friendships and lessons learned. I still remember mine.”

Dr. Jennifer L. Braaten, President of Ferrum College, remarked, “I am extremely pleased that Paul Harris is the first member of our alumni family to Chair the Board of Trustees. His commitment to the mission of the College will bring extraordinary leadership and vision to the Board.”

Paul and Susan make their home in northern Virginia and his retirement from British Aerospace has not slowed the pace of their lives. Susan Harris has served as a volunteer at the White House for the past ten years. The Harris’s also enjoy boating on the Chesapeake Bay and spending time with family and friends. They are members of the United Christian Parish where Paul Harris has served as the Chairman of the Finance Committee. In recent years, he has served as President of the National Aviation Club, and on the boards of Cheshire Homes of Arlington and the Washington Dulles Task Force.

The Harris’s have two daughters, Meredith and Joanna. Meredith, also a graduate of the University of Richmond, served two years in the Peace Corps in the Dominican Republic and currently works in the athletic department at George Washington University. She recently earned a Masters Degree in Public Health from GWU. Joanna, a graduate of East Carolina University, works as a loan processor at World Savings and is also a Certified Personal Trainer.

Of the many sentiments expressed when sharing his memories of Ferrum, Harris is most grateful to Ferrum for what he feels helped him shape his own identity. When reflecting upon his Ferrum experience he shares, “I learned a lot about people and how to assume a role of leadership, I also gained self confidence and I proved to myself that I could achieve higher goals than I had thought possible.”

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Football Team Caps Shortened Season with Major Individual Awards

The Ferrum football team closed out the 2003 campaign with a 6-2 overall record, including a big 19-17 win over Christopher Newport University in the season’s final game. Moncrief Holmes and Darren Venable picked up two of the USA South Athletic Conference’s top individual awards in football, earning Offensive Player of the Year and Defensive Player of the Year, respectively. For Venable, it was the second consecutive season in which he was named the league’s Defensive Player of the Year. Venable went on to earn his second consecutive All-America award when the College Sports Information Directors of America as well as the Don Hansen Football Gazette named him to their All-America teams. Should Venable earn the honor again this season, he will become the second student-athlete ever, and the first football player, at Ferrum to earn All-America three times. Pitcher Keith Mayhew earned All-America honors in baseball three times from 1993-95.

Baseball Team Caps '04 with Another League Championship

Coach Abe Naff’s baseball team earned its third consecutive regular season USA South title in 2004. The title was Ferrum’s seventh overall. Naff once again earned USA South Coach of the Year honors, his fourth honor (1989, 1992, 2003, 2004). The Panthers finished 26-11 in 2004, including a stellar 16-5 mark against USA South opponents. Along with Naff’s Coach of the Year honor, Thomas Meeks, Kevin Griffin, and Jesse Bowles were named to the All-Conference first team. Brandon Hale and Carlos Sanchez were second team selections. Sanchez and Griffin were honorable mention selections on the American Baseball Coaches Association All-South Region Team. Meeks was an honorable mention on the Virginia Sports Information Directors All-State team.

Cross-Country Teams Finish Second USA South

Ferrum's cross-country teams both finished second at last year’s USA South Championship. Lalita Brim, who earned her fourth All-Conference first team honor, led the women. On the men’s side, Dwayne Williams earned his fourth overall All-Conference finish. It was the fourth time that Ferrum’s women had finished as runner-up at the league’s championship meet, while the men finished runner-up for the third time.

Hoop Squads Close out 2003-04 Seasons

The women’s basketball team finished 15-11 last year, while the men closed out the 2004 season at 9-17. Aline Alzime was named the USA South Women's Basketball Rookie of the year, while Tanisha Durham and Tara Tolland earned All-Conference second team honors. On the men’s side, Kevin Aigbe was named to the All-Conference second team.
Men's Tennis Closes Out 2004 Season at 15-3

The Panther men's tennis team had another fine season, finishing 15-3 overall and earned its highest-ever league finish with a third-place finish in the USA South regular season standings. Coach Gary Holden's team also finished third at the USA South Tournament, the school's best tournament finish since joining the league in 1986. Erich Trier earned All-Conference honors for the second straight year, making the second team with his runner-up finish at #5 singles. Trier and three other players surpassed the 20-plus win mark in singles: Gabe Zakkak 21-7 at #1 singles, Matt Brantley 23-4 at #4 singles, Trier 22-5 at #5 singles, and Wilson Paine 20-3 at #6 singles. Ferrum set 12 team records (records since joining the NCAA Div. III ranks in 1986), including a new win streak of 11 consecutive matches and new shutout record with eight wins by scores of either 7-0 or 9-0. The Panthers also posted the school's first-ever tennis win over Hampden-Sydney College in 2004, by a tight 4-3 margin. Ferrum is a combined 30-6 in men's tennis the past two seasons.

Softball Falls Short of NCAA Bid by a Game

The softball team just missed its second trip to the NCAA Division III playoffs, losing in the championship game of the 2004 USA South Tournament. Coach Vickie Van Kleeck's team finished 28-15-1 in 2004, closing out USA South regular season action at 10-6. The Panthers earned a #3 seed at the USA South Tournament, and eventually earned a trip to the title game before falling. Kim Cox was named USA South Rookie Pitcher of the Year in 2004.
Ferrum hired two head coaches this past spring and summer. Ferrum alumnus John Faircloth ’93 was named Head Men’s Soccer Coach following the resignation of Dave Edwards, and Scott Shepherd was named Men’s Basketball Coach following the departure of Ed Wills. Faircloth was most recently Head Boys Soccer Coach at Benedictine High School in Richmond, where he led the Cadets to an outstanding 15-5 record last season. He also coached boys and girls soccer at Blessed Sacrament-Huguenot High School (Huguenot Academy), where he led the boy’s soccer team to a 70-33-1 record over six years, while his women were 30-33-4 over four seasons.

Shepherd is also no stranger to Ferrum, having served as Assistant Coach under Head Coach Bill Pullen during the 1991-92 and 1992-93 seasons. Ferrum won USA South (then the Dixie Conference) regular season titles both years, and made its first-ever NCAA Tournament appearance in 1992 after winning the league’s post-season tournament. Shepherd spent the past five seasons as Assistant Coach at the University of Virginia. Prior to that, he posted a 127-18 record in five years as Head Basketball Coach at Hargrave Military Academy. Shepherd remains one of the youngest coaches in the country to have coached and recruited three players currently in the NBA.

Panthers Finish Fourth in President’s Cup Race

For the second consecutive year, Ferrum finished fourth in the USA South President’s Cup standings. The Panthers picked up first-place points for baseball, second-place points in men’s and women’s cross country, and third-place points in football, women’s basketball, softball and men’s tennis. Christopher Newport won the title with 98.345 points, winning or sharing seven league titles. Methodist followed with 83.095 points and six titles, Greensboro was third with 68.770 points and two titles, and Ferrum was fourth with 67.970 and one title. The Panthers finished less than a point out of third place.
The 2004 season marks the 50th season of collegiate football at Ferrum College, our Golden Anniversary of Football. The Ferrum football program has put up some impressive numbers over the years, including winning National Junior College Athletic Association championships in 1965, 1968, 1974 and 1977. This season marks the 30th anniversary of the 1974 national championship. Sam Webb served as Ferrum’s first-ever football coach, leading the program two seasons from 1955-56. Carson Barnes coached the next two seasons, 1957-58, followed by a year with Lewis Lane as head coach in 1959. In 1960, a man named Hank Norton joined the Ferrum staff and began one of the most successful college football coaching careers. For the next 34 years, there would not be another coaching change, as Norton brought Ferrum to the top of the junior college football world. As a junior college from 1955-84, the Panthers racked up an impressive 188-76-12 record. In that time span, Ferrum steamrolled its way to a 5717-2406 scoring margin. Norton’s career record stands at 244-76-1, a 34-year record that holds up as one of the nation’s best overall coaching records. Norton guided Ferrum in its switch from the JUCO ranks to the NCAA Division III in 1985. The Panthers never skipped a beat, resuming the success at this new level. In 1987, Ferrum earned its first-ever NCAA playoff berth. In 1988 and 1989, the team won South Regional titles and appeared both years in the NCAA Division III National Semifinals. Norton retired in 1993 and was succeeded by long-time Assistant Coach Dave Davis. In his first 10 seasons, Davis has recorded a 51-45 record. Davis led Ferrum to a share of the 2001 and 2002 USA South Athletic Conference championships. As a Division III school, Ferrum has a 114-78-1 record. Just last season, Ferrum notched its 300th all-time win with an exciting 40-34 win at Guilford College. The Panthers scored on a 32-yard touchdown pass with no time remaining in regulation.

Ferrum will celebrate its Golden Anniversary of Football with festivities on May 20-22, 2005. All former players and coaches should save the dates and plan to attend!
COMMODORE KENNETH E. GOLDEN '70

Commodore Kenneth E. “Kenny” Golden has spent his time since Ferrum traveling around the world through an exemplary military career. Former Coach Hank Norton remarks on his former football player, “I’ve followed Kenny’s great military career and we are all so proud of him.” After Ferrum, he earned a Bachelor of Science in Education from the University of Virginia in 1972.

The following spring, Golden entered flight training through the Aviation Officer Candidate Program. From 1977-80, he served at Helicopter Anti-submarine Squadron Eleven, at NAS Jacksonville, FL. In 1982 he was selected to attend the Naval War College at Newport, RI. While attending the junior course, Golden was chosen as the American student at the Naval Staff College International Course. Upon graduation from the Naval War College, Golden was assigned to Helicopter Anti-submarine Squadron Six at NAS North Island, CA. Throughout the 1980’s Golden served in a number of capacities as an Administrative Officer, Maintenance Officer and Officer-In-Charge.

In 1989, Golden reported to Helicopter Anti-submarine Squadron Two as the Executive Officer. He was Commanding Officer from December 1990 until March 1992 for the first successful deployment of SH-60F CV and HH-60H helicopters on board USS Nimitz. The squadron deployed to the Persian Gulf and participated in operation Desert Storm and Joint Air Force operations during operation Southern Watch.

The 1990’s saw Golden’s career climb to impressive heights. In April 1994 Golden assumed command of USS Dubuque, forward deployed and home ported in Sasebo, Japan. USS Dubuque participated in Cooperation From The Sea, the first amphibious exercise with the Russian Navy since World War II. From June 1996 to January 1998, Golden was the Commodore of Amphibious Squadron Eight, one of the most successful forward deployments in recent history, which included the evacuation of U.S. citizens from Albania and Zaire. Golden was assigned as the Deputy Director of Strategy, Requirements and Integration, United States Joint Forces Command.

He was chosen in 2001 as the first US Navy Hudson Fellow to Oxford University, England where he spent a year at St. Antony’s College.

Golden was given command of Amphibious Task Force West, the largest amphibious force to leave the west coast since the Korean War. He commanded over 10,000 Sailors and Marines, 7 capital ships, and over 90 aircraft for the entire deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Demonstrating “Not Self, But Others” Golden brought the entire force safely home was relieved of command in October 2003 and became a Senior Military Analyst at United States Joint Forces Command.

Golden retired in February 2004 with over 5000 hours of flight time and 31 years of Naval Service. Golden has been awarded the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Legion of Merit with two gold stars, Meritorious Service Medal with two gold stars, Navy Commendation Medal, and Navy Achievement Medal.

Commodore Golden is married to Commander Francie Sidor Golden, USN (Retired) of Denver, CO. Their daughter, Lieutenant Tara Sidor Golden, USN, served as a Naval Flight Officer finishing her second deployment onboard USS Harry S. Truman. She received an Air Medal and Navy Achievement Medal for flying on 29 combat missions over Northern Iraq in Operation Iraqi Freedom. She is currently the first female NFO, FRS instructor in VAW-120 at Naval Station Norfolk, VA.

JIM KITTS '94

Jim Kitts graduated from Ferrum in 1994 with a degree in social work. Kitts holds the record as the most recent member of the Ferrum family to have played in the National Football League.

The steadfast recruiting efforts of Coach Dave Davis brought Kitts to Ferrum where he played football on one of Coach Hank Norton’s final teams.

Coach Davis remarked on his memorable experience with Kitts, “When I met Jim, he was a tall, lanky kid who could really run. He was about 195 lbs and we started him as an outside linebacker. With practice and workouts, he gained 40 lbs and moved to inside linebacker. He had an amazing work ethic and was deeply determined to meet his goals and ambitions.”

On his experience as a member of Coach Hank Norton’s team, Kitts shares, “It is a great honor to have played for Coach Norton. Coach Norton had the opportunity to make men out of boys, and he was very successful at that. Anyone that had the opportunity to play for him understands the man he is and respects him for that. The values he taught, both on and off the football field, were those that would help make you successful in all aspects of life…”

An outstanding presence on the field, Kitts established himself as one of the college’s top all-time linebackers. He recorded 90 career solo tackles, 98 assisted stops, 188 total tackles, intercepted eight passes, registered five quarterback sacks and recovered a fumble. At the close on the 1993 season, Kitts was named to the Virginia Sports Information Directors (VASID) All-State football team.

Kitts credits Ferrum for “…the many lessons the College taught me about myself. I met and developed friendships with people who will be friends for the rest of my life while at Ferrum, and I think it is for these reasons that they are still the great friends that they are today.”

After graduation, Kitts played football for both the World League and the Albany Firebirds of the Arena Football League, and later in the NFL with the Green Bay Packers, Miami Dolphins, and the Washington Redskins.

A busy and exciting time for Jim and his wife Jennifer, they welcomed their son Collin to the family ten months ago. They also recently celebrated the purchase of a real estate company in Carolina Beach, NC where they handle both property management and sales. Kitts is a licensed mortgage loan officer and is responsible for overseeing loans throughout the country.

Kitts is an active member of Carolina Beach Baptist Church, the adult Chapter of Fellowship of Christian Athletes in Wilmington, NC and the NFLPA Retired Players Association.

Sharing advice for current and prospective students, Kitts offers, “...definitely live your life today so that when you look back on it you can feel satisfied that you put forth every effort to be successful. There are times when things happen that are beyond our control and that is okay. If you did everything you could to put yourself in the position to be successful, you have done all you can ask of yourself.”

Faithful to Ferrum’s motto of “Not Self, But Others”, Jim Kitts remains driven to make a positive impact in the lives of everyone he meets.
1965 National Champions Ferrum College Head Coach Hank Norton accepts the Shrine Bowl trophy with a broad smile after the Panthers defeated McCook Junior College 16-0 for the 1965 NJCAA football national championship. Presenting the award as Ferrum players watch is Mr. J.C. Lewis, Jr., of the Shrine Bowl Committee.

Panthers in action!
Tim Carter '02 - Roanoke Steam (AF2)
Javon Baker '02 - Roanoke Steam (AF2)
Tone' Dancy '01 - Arena Football
Nate Daniels '98 - Roanoke Steam (AF2)
Millard Vining '96 - Berlin Adler (WFL)
Henley Green '95 - Roanoke Steam (AF2)
Jim Kitts '94 - Green Bay Packers, Miami Dolphins, Washington Redskins, Albany Firebirds (Arena)
Chris Warren '90 - Philadelphia Eagles, Dallas Cowboys, Seattle Seahawks
Anthony Drakeford '89 - Roanoke Steam (AF2)
Norman Flood '85 - Minnesota Vikings
Darryl Hammond '85 - New Orleans Saints
Curtis Taliaferro '85 - Atlanta Falcons
Leander Knight '84 - New York Jets, Houston Oilers
Curtis Stewart '83 - Dallas Cowboys
Chuck Banks '83 - Houston Oilers
Brett Wilson '81 - Washington (Indoor League)
Raymond Johnson '81 - New York Giants
Joe Happe '70 - Philadelphia Eagles, Baltimore Stars (USFL)
Boo Boo Trent '79 New York Giants
Mike Mitchell '79 - New York Giants
Steve Gordon '79 - Cleveland Browns
Don Jones '79 - Virginia Hunters
Mike Durette '78 - Los Angeles Express (USFL), San Francisco 49ers
Nate Parker '78 - Virginia Hunters
David O'Donohoe '78 - Virginia Hunters
Keith Gary '78 - Montreal Alouettes (CFL)
George Butts '78 - Ottawa Roughriders (CFL)
Joe Odum '76 - Hamilton Tiger Cats (CFL)
Melvin Martin '76 - Detroit Lions, Saskatchewan Roughriders (CFL)
Al Latimer '75 - Philadelphia Eagles, San Francisco 49ers, Winnipeg Bombers (CFL)
John Douglas '75 - Buffalo Bills
Don Testerman '74 - Miami Dolphins, Washington Redskins, Seattle Seahawks, New Orleans Saints
Dexter Pride '74 - Miami Dolphins
Mumbo Gaines '74 - Pittsburgh Steelers, Chicago Bears
Dicky Jones '73 - New Orleans Saints
Frank Haywood '73 - Cincinnati Bengals
Frank Dark '73 - Baltimore Colts
Charlie Bland '73 - Dallas Cowboys
Cleo Johnson '71 - Dallas Cowboys
Ted Powell '71 - Birmingham (WFL)
Jim Culbreath '71 - Green Bay Packers, New York Giants
Frank Fontes '70 - Houston Oilers
Larry Robinson '70 - Dallas Cowboys
Billy Joe Mantooth '70 - Philadelphia Eagles
Mark Skinner '69 - Houston Oilers
Phil Mosser '69 - Montreal Alouettes (CFL)
Renso Perdoni '68 - Hamilton Tiger Cats (CFL), Saskatchewan Roughriders (CFL)
Jim Huff '67 - Green Bay Packers
Ed George '67 - Montreal Alouettes (CFL), Baltimore Colts, Pittsburgh Steelers
Bruce Gossett '62 - Los Angeles Rams, San Francisco 49ers
Don Thompson '60 - Baltimore Colts, Philadelphia Eagles, St. Louis Cardinals
JOEY CORNWELL ’02

In his few short years since graduating with a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture, Oden “Joey” Cornwell has found much to celebrate. His professional life as a loan officer with Farm Credit has been such a rewarding experience that he now recruits future Ferrum alumni for the business. On the personal side, Joey and his fiancée Margaret Johnson ’02 have been excitedly preparing for their May 2005 wedding to be held in Margaret’s home state of Alabama. Their engagement was sealed in January by a jigsaw puzzle proposal that was painstakingly organized by Joey.

Raised on a dairy farm in Nokesville, Cornwell was introduced to Ferrum during his junior year of high school by friend Jay Yankey ’01. A member of Future Farmers of America, Cornwell accepted Yankey’s invitation to attend an Agriculture banquet on campus. From that moment, Cornwell knew he “was hooked.”

As a Ferrum student, juggling a full schedule was something Cornwell grew accustomed to managing. Passionate about making a difference in his community, his service as a Bonner Scholar called him to assist with local food and blood drives. He was a key organizer for the “Into the Streets” initiative and several landscaping projects at the Saint James Community Center. He mentored his fellow students as an Orientation Team Leader and was actively involved with the Agriculture Club and their service opportunities.

Graduation did not slow Joey Cornwell’s momentum. As a loan officer for Farm Credit, Cornwell maintains a hectic schedule that is a mix of marketing, loan creation, and loan servicing. He handles a great deal of the promotion for his branch of five Farm Credit offices by coordinating their radio and print campaigns. Cornwell exudes visible excitement when discussing his position, “I would not want to work anywhere else. Every day is different and challenging. I get to spend time being around people I love—farmers. With my work, I feel like I am able to assist them in building opportunities that could make tremendous impacts on their lives.”

Realizing that only two of his company’s 130 employees were Ferrum College graduates, Cornwell knew that he could bring more members of his Ferrum family into the fold. After discussing the potential of recruiting more Ferrum prospects with his regional manager, they agreed that Cornwell should serve as Farm Credit’s recruiter for his alma mater. Cornwell has since been invited to speak to senior seminar classes and has organized several sessions for on-campus interviews with students. These interview sessions have been well received and have evoked strong interest from several seniors. Rol Walters, Director of Career Services, shares, “Joey has been enthusiastic about the opportunity to bring fellow Ferrum alumni to the Farm Credit staff. We have appreciated his efforts to assist our students in developing career prospects for them.”

Cornwell’s service to his Ferrum family does not stop here. He recently assisted Ferrum student Hannah Austin Bailey ’05 and her husband Randy in reaching a personal milestone with the purchase of their first home in Glade Hill. Hannah expressed the highest praise for Joey and shared, “Joey was so great to work with. He was so calm in working with us through the process of purchasing our first home and as newlyweds this was a huge step for us. When Joey and I made the Ferrum connection, we just went on and on about our Ferrum experience.”

It takes only a few moments with Joey Cornwell to realize how deeply he loves Ferrum. Beyond his work with our current students, he also assists the Alumni Office as Class Agent for the Class of 2002. With his easy-going charm and big heart, Joey is a much admired member of the Ferrum alumni family. Living “Not Self, But Others” comes naturally for him.
ALICE McDaniel ’03

Since graduating in May 2003 with a degree in Mathematical Sciences, Alice McDaniel has taken both the academic and life lessons learned in the Ferrum classroom and applied those to the instruction she provides when guiding her own students. She credits the rigorous education program at Ferrum with helping her successfully transition into her first years as a high school math instructor at Osbourn Park High School in Prince William County.

As a student, McDaniel readily accepted the call to leadership. She served Ferrum as a Community Advisor, Hall Council President, Student Judicial Board Chair, Orientation Team Leader, Admissions Ambassador Captain, and as a math tutor. She was instrumental in establishing the charter class of the Phi Omicron chapter of Alpha Phi Omega, a coeducational service organization that has made a tremendous impact on the Ferrum community. McDaniel served as Chapter President during her senior year. She was also active with the youth of the Episcopal Diocese of Southwest Virginia and the Student Virginia Educators Association.

Her student involvement as an Admissions Ambassador gave her the opportunity to meet and make relationships with countless prospective students and their families, a position almost tailor-made to suit McDaniel’s vivacious personality. When the Admissions and Alumni staff began work on the Alumni Admissions Ambassadors program, an initiative in which the alumni family assists the Admissions team in promoting Ferrum and recruiting prospective students, McDaniel was quick to answer the request for help. She has assisted with college fairs, made phone calls to prospective students, and has shared her own Ferrum experience at Open House events on campus. Committed to spreading the word about Ferrum, McDaniel strongly believes that the simplest gestures such as wearing her Ferrum gear, sporting the College sticker on her vehicle, and hanging Ferrum posters in her classroom can make a significant impact on those considering making Ferrum their college home. Always a cheerleader for her alma mater, McDaniel is an active member of the Washington, DC area alumni chapter.

McDaniel is deeply enthusiastic about her work with Job’s Daughters, an international fraternal organization for young women. She had the opportunity to return to Ferrum this past summer to serve as a chaperone for a Job’s Daughters gathering held on campus. Devoted to supporting youth development, she is active with several other community service youth groups. McDaniel’s dedication to her students stretches beyond the borders of the classroom. She frequently attends her students’ sporting events and extra-curricular activities.

An avid traveler, at Ferrum McDaniel had the opportunity to study in Rome with Dr. David Howell and Chaplain Wes Astin on what she reminisces as an “unbelievable trip.” After memorable travels to Australia and Jamaica, she now has her sights on Africa.

On her Ferrum experience she gratefuly expresses, “Ferrum was home to me. I felt comfortable and safe at Ferrum because I knew that people cared about me. The faculty and staff wanted to make sure that each student had the chance to succeed. I had great professors and I got to know the faculty and staff and developed a great respect for them. There aren’t too many colleges where you have been to the houses of the faculty or got to know the locals….I’m much more confident in myself than I ever was because so many people put their faith in me and told me that I could do whatever I wanted to do in life…”

Dedicated to helping young men and women find their own path to success, Alice McDaniel brings “Not Self, But Others” to her classroom and her community every day.

DANIELLE SWANSON ’04

Danielle Swanson graduated in May with a Bachelor of Science in Psychology with her eyes optimistically focused on her life’s next chapter and with a plan for how to make her dreams a reality.

A native of the Bronx and a transplant to the Virginia Beach area, Swanson spent her youth immersed in community service projects. When researching potential colleges, she discovered Ferrum in a Best of Small Colleges guide. After making inquiries to the College, Swanson and her mother were impressed with the strong Bonner Scholars program and they both agreed that Ferrum would be the best fit for Danielle.

Upon arrival at Ferrum, Swanson found that the Bonner Scholars program met her expectations. When reflecting on her Bonner service, she shares, “Bonner allowed me to travel extensively and meet a lot of wonderful people. I feel that Bonner will positively influence my future career decisions.”

Swanson remained equally passionate about making a difference with her on-campus involvements. During her senior year she held the title of SGA treasurer, serving on a cabinet led by Joanna Bosik that worked tirelessly to build lasting traditions for both current and future Ferrum students. She was also an active member of the African American Students Association. In the little free time remaining, Swanson played tennis, worked as a disc jockey, and assisted the Ferrum Fund as a student caller for our alumni and parent fundraising efforts for the College.

During the 2003-04 opening session for new students, Swanson was introduced to alum Jon Morris ’94 by Dean of Student Life, Dave Newcombe. As a student, Morris accepted an internship through Anthony Drakeford ’89 with the Roanoke City Health Department. That internship opened doors that sparked Morris’ later success with Roanoke-based Total Action Against Poverty (and more recently as the Executive Director of STEP Inc. based in Rocky Mount) and Newcombe hoped to develop a similar opportunity for Swanson. Morris offered Swanson an internship and in January she began making the twice weekly commute to Roanoke.

On his experience with recruiting Swanson, Morris shares, “I get excited when I can give a Ferrum student or alumni an opportunity. I believe it’s my duty to open the door for them as it was opened for me. I gave Danielle the opportunity because she was a Ferrum student but she earned the job through her preparation, work-ethic, and commitment.”

Upon graduation, Swanson was offered the position of Mentoring Services Coordinator through TAP Virginia Cares, a statewide pre and post incarceration program that started at TAP in 1972. In this role, she offered mentoring assistance to children of ex-offenders enrolled in the program in an effort to break the cycle of incarceration. She paired mentors with these children to assist with homework, play games, and build healthy relationships. She recently accepted a new position with TAP as the Tobacco Prevention Coordinator where she provides tobacco prevention education to middle school aged teens through workshops at local schools and juvenile detention centers. Swanson also works part time as a relief counselor with a Roanoke area juvenile detention center and as a volunteer at Our Lady of the Valley, an assisted living center.

Always fulfilling “Not Self, But Others”, Swanson lives every moment with a commitment to bringing the hope of a brighter day and a new beginning to those who are struggling with great challenges and obstacles.
Mr. Walter Yates Boyd of Elon College, NC, is a 1949 graduate of Ferrum Junior College. The son of a Methodist minister, Boyd came to Ferrum in 1947 from Blackstone, VA.

The Beckham Medallion is Ferrum College's highest alumni honor and named after Ferrum's first president Dr. Benjamin Beckham. Mr. Boyd is being honored for his service to family, church and business, and for his volunteer efforts and leadership within his community.

After graduation, Mr. Boyd continued his education at Elon College. It was at Elon that he met and married Mary Louise Huffine. He and Mary Louise had two children, Walter Boyd, Jr. and Nancy Louise. He and Mary Louise celebrated their 52nd anniversary just one month prior to her sudden passing.

Upon graduating with a degree in social studies in 1951, Mr. Boyd enlisted in the US Navy where he served in the Hospital Corps in San Diego, CA, Jacksonville, NC, and Yokosuka, Japan. In 1955, Boyd left the military and returned to Elon. His professional involvements include 30 years of dedicated service to Burlington Industries. Following his retirement in 1986, Boyd has maintained an active career as the current owner and operator of WYB Properties in North Carolina. He has also consistently worked during tax season for H&R Block since 1969. He enjoys gardening, listening to bluegrass music, and spending time with his new bride, Helen Elizabeth Satterfield.

Mr. Boyd has exemplified Ferrum College’s "Not Self, But Others" motto by his selfless service to his church and civic groups. He is a current member of Elon Community Church where he has served as president of the adult Sunday School class for the past 40 years, and is a former deacon. Boyd assists the congregation by helping members with taxes and banking needs and by offering transportation to and from doctor's visits. Mr. Boyd is a Thirty-Second Degree Master Scottish Rite Mason and a Shriner with the Amaran Temple. He also serves in the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Since 2001, Mr. Boyd has served Ferrum College as a member of the Alumni Board of Directors. A devoted alumnus, he remains in close contact with many of his classmates. He frequently attends Alumni events in his area and throughout Virginia. As evidenced by this record of accomplishments and services, he is most deserving of this prestigious award, the Benjamin M. Beckman Medallion.
At a time when several big name theatres in Virginia and nationwide have closed, why was the Blue Ridge Dinner Theatre able to open its 25th anniversary season with a benefit show for the Ferrum Food Bank on May 27, 2004? What were Dr. Jennifer Braaten, the Franklin County Board of Supervisors, Governor Mark Warner, and Senator John Warner talking about that night?

The answers are as diverse as the nature of theatre. The cynical say there is nothing else to do in Franklin County. The cynics are clearly wrong, but they raise a significant issue. As the actor, Kenneth Haigh, has observed, “You need three things in the theatre -- the play, the actors and the audience, and each must give something.” At the BRDT, all three parts contribute to its soul.

In 1978, the Ferrum Summer Theatre played to 873 people during its entire season; in 2004, the BRDT drew an on-campus 5,394-member audience and a total audience of 13,961.

These numbers have faces. One face is the group leader who, during intermission, whispers to Rex Stephenson, the theatre’s founding and current artistic director, “I have folks with me today who never go any place except here.” Another face is the patron, who as the 2004 season ended, told me that she was moving to Montana and was nearly in tears as she said that the thing she would miss the most about southwest Virginia was coming to the BRDT. Another example that repeats itself frequently in many forms is the woman who shyly said to me in a doctor’s office in Roanoke, “Don’t you perform at Ferrum? We enjoy going to Ferrum more than anything else we do during the summer. Please, don’t ever stop.”

What have those patrons enjoyed? Summer theatre at Ferrum College first meant historical drama. In the early years, with support from the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities, the theatre focused on bringing Franklin County’s racial history to its citizens and members of surrounding communities. Too Free for Me, the play that opened the summer theatre in 1979 and closed the 2004 season tells the compelling story of Indiana Choice, a black woman who sued for her freedom in 1851 in Franklin County. Following that gripping play, Rex Stephenson and the early companies told the story of Franklin County’s experiences with reconstruction in Charity for All in 1980 and with the deterioration of race relations as opposition grew towards William Mahone in The Roar of the Silence. Though clearly a trilogy on local race relations, the audiences knew they were seeing plays that dealt with eternal issues of right and wrong, what being loyal means, and how societies and individuals cope with each other. They experienced what Aristotle meant when he said, “The aim of art is to represent not the outward appearance of things, but their inward significance.”

Summer theatre was never all serious even when the themes were fundamental issues of humanity. Between 1982 and the late 1990’s, Rex Stephenson wrote and, often, directed plays that dealt with local feuds, (Victoria, I Account Thy Love, The Tie That Breaks), regional ghost stories (Wicca), and Civil War figures (Belle Boyd,
The General and His Lady, The Conspiracy, A Southern Soldier Boy, The President Is In Shackles). In those middle years, he also directed a series of melodramas, many of which Janice Pryor wrote, including The Chicken Count of Rocky Mount, Framed in Franklin County, Franklin Fabrics, and Murder in Moneta. Those outlandish clownings culminated in the first play that needed several additional performances to meet the audience interest--Glenn Myth and the Legend of Boone's Hill by John Beach and R. Rex Stephenson. As one longtime audience member, Katherine Grimes, recalls it "was a real hoot." Indeed it was.

The BRDT produced the “Boone's Hill” show in a tent through rainstorms that threatened to ruin the musical instruments and across rivulets that made food service a challenge, yet many of the county residents parodied in the play came back night after night. People who had no association with the area enjoyed the wholesome humor and universal situations.

In a different but similarly moving way, Stephenson and Michael Trochim wrote a poignant script that allowed the cast to chronicle the development of John Wesley's journey of faith in The World Is My Parish. In perhaps the most dramatic example of spectacle in the history of the BRDT, Stephenson also made all the actors wet in a real rainstorm at the end of the first act. The mops were busy during intermission.

As the BRDT developed, Stephenson's interest in children's theatre and the audience's appreciation of plays involving the whole range of humanity has also grown. In the early 1990s, the BRDT began including a production specifically designed for adults and children to enjoy together. This production, like every other play, is as important to the performers as it is to the audience. One of the young performers who has been coming to the BRDT from Nashville for seven years and who skips outings to the pool in order to attend rehearsals was in tears when told that a "children's play" could not be in the 2004 season because of time constraints.

In talking about intergenerational drama, Dr. Nellie McCaslin, the best authority on children's theatre in the United States, has said, “The BRDT is an example of a theatre that meets many needs brilliantly... not the least of the values is the social aspect: generations working together on a production to provide quality entertainment for audiences of all ages.
In addition to the audience and plays that have marked the BRDT over the past twenty-five years, the performers who have touched those audiences and interpreted those plays have made the BRDT a successful operation. Every year the BRDT introduces its audience to new talent. Some of those performers go on to careers in professional theatre. Willette Thompson in Washington, D.C. and much of Eastern Europe, Jon Cohn and Cliff Todd now in Los Angeles, Kara Beth Oliver Dambaugh now at the Olney Theatre in Washington, D.C., John Isner at the Arkansas Arts Center in Little Rock are some of many examples of Ferrum College graduates who have gotten a start with the BRDT and now are theatre professionals. Other performers use their theatre training to make other kinds of contributions to society. BRDT alumni are graduate students, talent agents, musicians, park rangers, leaders of state agencies, and developers of web sites. Lee Fields has had his first novel accepted for publication. An amazing number, exemplified by Todd Necessary, Elise Witcher, Emily Tucker, and others, are teachers. One is a priest.

The BRDT has also brought its audiences the talents of nationally established performers such as Hal Blankenship and one of America’s leading theatre historians and teachers, Dr. Vera Mowry Roberts. It has benefited in so many ways from the talents of Joe Ray, a consummate actor, who knows twentieth-century theatre history from his distinctively personal involvement with much of it, and from Dr. Nellie McCaslin, world-renowned authority in children’s theatre and a pioneer in creative dramatics in the classroom. Though long-time audience members and, certainly BRDT company members mourn Kirk Cash, John Hodgson, Aurand Harris, and Lowell Swortzell, their examples of dedication to the theatre and the lessons in life that they taught by example continue to lead us.

Likewise, the passing of members of the audience who have been essential to the development of the BRDT sadden the BRDT family, but underscore the importance of many others who continue to sustain it. They, along with Ferrum College maintenance, food services and housekeeping staff, the patrons, the underwriters, the advertisers, the volunteers, the support personnel of the BRDT, and the performers all contribute to the soul of the BRDT.

Former president, Dr. Joseph T. Hart, expresses a major dimension of that soul as he reflects on the value of the Blue Ridge Dinner Theatre. “Living in such a beautiful area as we do, we have more than an opportunity, we have an obligation to acknowledge its heritage and honor the region in all that we do.”

Like Twain who recognized that carrying a cat by its tail teaches a man lessons he can learn no other way, both Stephenson and I know that we have learned much from just doing a summer theatre every summer. We are both grateful that it has enriched the lives of others.

“Your carefully selected performances offer the citizens of Franklin County an excellent opportunity to learn the area’s history...”

-Governor Mark Warner
Since graduating from Ferrum with a degree in Dramatic and Theatre Arts, Kara-Beth Oliver Dambaugh has taken her passion for the stage and turned it into an opportunity to teach children creative drama as a means of building their self-confidence and broadening their outlook on life.

Originally from a small New Hampshire town, Dambaugh graduated from a high school class of 41 students. Following her dream of performing in the theatre and working in the arts, she enrolled at the University of New Hampshire and experienced what she describes as a “culture shock.” After the conclusion of her first semester, she strongly felt she was not in the place that would best meet her needs and chose to leave the school. In that interim period of looking for another college, Dambaugh took a job with a video store in her hometown.

A chance meeting in that store changed the course of Dambaugh’s life. When her friend Robin, a pal since kindergarten, stopped in one day, she persuaded Dambaugh to continue her pursuit of theatre. She suggested she contact her aunt, a professor of theatre at a small college in Virginia. Robin’s aunt was Dr. Jody Brown.

As an intern for the summer months, she began the process of applying to colleges. When the lead actor for a show became too ill to carry on in the play, Dr. Stephenson came to Dambaugh and asked her to consider taking on the part. Realizing that an offer such as this would not likely surface again if she declined, Dambaugh readily accepted the opportunity. Still shocked by excitement, Dr. Stephenson had to tell her that she could stop stuffing the envelopes she had been preparing and could start rehearsing for the role immediately.

In months that followed, she fell in love with the dinner theatre and its cast and dreaded the end of summer. Still planning to return to New Hampshire, Dambaugh was approached by Dr. Stephenson about the possibility of attending Ferrum. Dr. Brown personally walked her to the Admissions and Financial Aid Offices to assist her through the admission process.

She credits her professors with being skilled at unlocking her potential. They took time to get to know her personally and taught the importance of discipline and hard work. She relished at having the opportunity to try new things and to view the world through a broader perspective.

Beyond her work with the Blue Ridge Dinner Theatre, she served as the theatre’s office manager, as a Jack Tales Player and tour manager, and as a member of the hand bell choir.

During one visit home for winter break, a blizzard pounded the east coast and rendered Dambaugh unable to return to campus in time for the start of the new semester. Trapped at home with no way of securing a flight and concerned about losing her pre-registered classes, she called Dr. Stephenson for help. He told her he would make some calls and that it would be okay. When she arrived on campus, she was sent directly to the Registrar’s Office. They knew about the situation and had already taken care of holding her classes open for her. This nurturing made her feel special and she realized that she was more than just a number at Ferrum.

Dambaugh received a masters degree in Arts Management from American University. She recently left a position as Marketing Manager for the Olney Theatre for a new role at a public relations and marketing firm in Herndon.

Dedicated to instilling a passion for the arts in children, Dambaugh conducts creative drama workshops for elementary school students, has produced and served as director of a children’s theatre camp, and has produced for a children’s theatre in Arlington.

She advises current and prospective students to realize, “Education is what you make of it. Put a lot of effort and energy in what you are doing. You do not have to attend a big name school to receive an amazing education.”

Her devotion to sharing the arts with children coupled with her profound enthusiasm for life’s possibilities, Kara-Beth Oliver Dambaugh brings “Not Self, But Others” to her personal stage each day.
John F. Kennedy said, “The life of the arts, far from being an interruption, a distraction, in the life of a nation, is close to the center of a nation’s purpose and is a test of the quality of a nation’s civilization.” Realizing the influence of R. Rex Stephenson in the artistic life of Ferrum College requires understanding this basic importance of theatre.

An Indiana farm boy, he conceived and still directs the longest, continuously running children’s play in the United States; he is Virginia’s most published author of plays for children, and he envisaged, developed, and still guides a summer theatre that thrives against all odds.

Dr. Nellie McCaslin, who features Stephenson’s work in several of her many books, highlights the impact of the Jack Tale Players in her Historical Guide to Children’s Theatre in America, calling them “an innovative and highly imaginative native program.”

Former president, Dr. Joseph T. Hart, has observed, “I would never have encouraged a summer theatre at Ferrum College without the presence of Rex Stephenson on the faculty. And without Stephenson’s leadership, vision, integrity, spirit, and concern for the audience, it would never have prospered.”

Yet, Stephenson points to none of these endeavors as the most important features of his life’s work. While justly proud of these public accomplishments, he is more impressed with students who really work not the ones who can drift through to an A, the performers who count the impact on the audience not the hours in preparation, and the graduates who contribute to society.

Outside of his daughters, Janice Stephenson Watkins, Jessica, and Juliet, his actors, especially his students, offer the greatest indications of the quality of the community that Stephenson has been building and continues to develop.

Dr. Peter Crow, long-time Ferrum faculty member and 2004 Williams Professor, recalls how Stephenson challenges others to use talents they did not know they had. “My first experience with the BRDT was when Rex told me about a small role he hoped I would consider doing in a play he was writing about Jefferson Davis [The President Is in Shackles, 1992]. The character was Edwin Stanton, Secretary of War under President Lincoln. And indeed, when we began rehearsing, it was a small part. What I didn’t know was that Rex hadn’t finished writing even then. And as the rehearsals continued, the role of Stanton continued to grow and grow, including a solo song to begin one of the acts. What Rex didn’t know is that I was the only person during my tenure at Woodberry Forest School to audition for the chapel choir and be turned down. During performances that summer with the BRDT, another actor stood offstage and cued me into the right first note. Then I was on my own.”

Joe Ray, who has had a longer association with the Blue Ridge Dinner Theatre than anyone not directly associated with Ferrum College, remarks on the value of the experience. “What did BRDT mean to me? I guess to be able to do original plays; to be the very first one to play a role, then see the play published, and know that it will go out for other people to play "my" part. And it gave me the opportunity to direct original plays, with the
playwright on hand to confer with. And there is something to be said for being trusted by Rex to both act and, especially, direct his plays. Probably, I have directed more of them than anyone else, since he doesn’t like to direct his own plays. It has been quite an experience being part of such a theatre.”

Allison Colby from Emerson College in Boston, who made her first appearance at the Blue Ridge Dinner Theatre in 2004, makes a similar point. “I felt like I was given roles that really stretched and challenged me. One thing that will always stay with me is all the support I was given by Rex... I was nervous about the singing but Rex really honestly believed in me and gave me the opportunity to really feel confident.”

Shauna Jeann, B.A. Ferrum College, came to the BRDT as an intern and stayed to graduate in 1999 after developing a senior show on Lucille Ball that Stephenson still holds up as an example. She sums up Stephenson’s impact on her career by saying, “The truth is that Rex and I butted heads a lot and I got on his nerves more than once, but many of the jobs I have had since the BRDT wouldn’t have come about if I hadn’t known how to do all the other things. It was very hard work at the BRDT, but I always loved every minute of it. In fact, the other places I have worked I always compared with the BRDT. I always liked the fact that I got to do a little bit of everything there. I was never just an actor, or just a props artisan, or just a stitcher. I got to do it all.”

“I would never have encouraged a summer theatre at Ferrum College without the presence of Rex Stephenson on the faculty.”

-Dr. Joseph T. Hart,
Former Ferrum President

Joe Stanley, B.F.A. Ferrum College, 1993, M.A. New York University 1997, now C.E.O. of Star City Design- a firm that develops interactive computer communications-points out the value of Stephenson’s ensemble approach. “Rex, outside of my parents, has been the most influential person in my life. Rex helped me to see that it isn’t important what role you play, but that you play. Rex taught me so much about the theatre and so much more about life. His stories about working in the AC Delco plant, traveling hours to baseball games, and cows with low self-esteem were much more than idle reminiscences; each was a lesson. Perhaps the best lesson I learned from Rex was on the day of my grandfather’s funeral. It was over winter break, and as I walked down the aisle of the church with my family, I looked up and saw Rex. He had been crying as well. I realized that Rex believed in the ensemble of life as well.”
On Sept. 6, 1955, Ferrum College students picked up copies of their campus newspaper to find “The Iron Blade” written across the top in a delicate script. Previously, the paper was “The Echo,” but Ferrum’s seventh president Dr. C. Ralph Arthur desired a redirection of campus media, complete with a name that tied the newspaper to the college.

And so it was 47 years later that a new staff member on campus inquired as to the meaning of the paper’s name. Research found that the original staff members chose “Iron” because Ferrum is derived from the Latin word and they chose “Blade” because they believed newspapers help fight corruption.

Fifty years after its inception, The Iron Blade continues its original mission, with a few changes.

In the early ’90s, The Iron Blade staff traded in their cut and paste newspaper layout techniques for a set of Macintosh computers and a page design program. Lana Whited, faculty advisor to The Iron Blade since 1990, said it brought the paper up to speed with modern technology. Later that decade, photography followed, going digital. The staff also began maintaining an online version, thus entering the Internet age.

This year, the newspaper’s editorial staff took another step when the paper went to a weekly publication after being mostly bi-weekly since its beginnings. Whited said she asked the editorial staff to consider the change last spring and then left the decision up to them. “It was a very important moment for me,” she said. The editors had a majority ruling for the change, arguing that it would benefit the campus and better prepare the staff for post-college jobs in the journalism field.

Editor-in-Chief Ashley Deets ’05 said the more regular publication has brought out the best in much of the staff. Whereas the bi-weekly publication didn’t give the students a sense of a real production schedule and deadlines, the weekly paper ensures they’re always working on something newspaper-related.
“Many times we’re working on two issues at once,” said Deets. “It can be pretty stressful.” But stress aside, she said the weekly workload has made many staff members realize how skilled they are. “They now see what strong journalistic talents they have.”

But while the special issue was a learning experience for the students, it wasn't an easy one. “Nothing is harder to cover than the death of a student,” said Whited, noting the sadness of a life half-lived. “I think it takes a special kind of character for a student to have to write a death story on another student.”

Hardest of all, Whited said, was the death of a fellow Iron Blade staff member, Eric Baker ’96, a talented entertainment writer, died in a car accident in April 1996. “It was the single hardest event I’ve had to deal with as a student advisor,” she said. But the Iron Blade staff was able to maintain journalistic professionalism even while mourning in order to cover their friend’s death.

Research found that the original staff members chose “Iron” because Ferrum is derived from the Latin word and they chose “Blade” because they believed newspapers help fight corruption.

Through good news and bad news, The Iron Blade newsroom in the basement of Roberts Hall is a buzz of excitement every week as the students pool together their individual skills to produce a reputable campus paper complete with hard news, entertainment, opinion and sports.

At the end of each semester, the newspaper loses talented students to graduation, transfers and lack of time. And while the staff members and their skills are missed, the remaining staff begins each new semester, picking up the pieces, training the newcomers and diving into the next publication.
Teamwork and training keeps The Iron Blade alive semester after semester. “I really think one of the strengths of this staff is the editors train each other to keep going,” said Whited, noting that their in-house training has become like tradition.

Although gone from the college and the newspaper, Iron Blade staff members are never completely forgotten. They leave behind traces of their individual talents, passing them on to future generations. And some are never able to fully leave, hard as they try. Staff members return to the office as the years pass by to see how things have changed and to remember what they dedicated a large part of their college career to.

“I feel like The Iron Blade is sort of like a fraternity in the best sense of what a fraternity is,” said Whited. “There’s a camaraderie and a continuity there.”

And when past staff members return to the newsroom, they find the door open and a happy welcoming. Each visit is like a homecoming.

“I feel like The Iron Blade is sort of like a fraternity in the best sense of what a fraternity is...”

-Dr. Lana Whited
David Fewell '63

A recipient of the Distinguished Alumni Award for service to College and community, as a student, David Fewell served his classmates as Sophomore Class President. Untiring in his efforts to bring his Ferrum family back together, he remains an instrumental force in planning reunion gatherings for his class.

Fewell held the position of Business Manager for the Iron Blade during the 1962-1963 academic session. Responsible for generating revenue by selling advertisement space, he canvassed local businesses and ventured into Rocky Mount and far reaching Roanoke to promote this student effort. He found that most were willing to pay up to $25.00 to promote their business in the paper.

The Iron Blade staff met weekly in the basement of John Wesley Hall to create and prepare the issue for the following month. Utilizing a “cut and paste” process, Fewell noted that “headlines, articles, and other newsworthy items were pasted onto a master sheet. After all of our preparation, I would drive to Bassett with all our materials and deliver them to the Bassett Printing Company.” He continues, “It took 3-4 days for the paper to be printed and duplicated. They used a method of typesetting not seen today. Lead was melted and poured into plates that were coated with ink and pressed onto paper to make the image. It took time and effort to print the newspaper back then compared to today’s technology.”

After earning his degree from Ferrum, Fewell received a Bachelor of Science from Virginia Tech and a Master of Business Administration from Mississippi College.

He is the owner of Safety and Compliance Inc., a business with a mission of helping companies minimize exposure to OSHA violations. Educating his clients on the importance of creating a safe workplace, Fewell assists them with identifying and correcting occupational hazards.

Motivated just as in his days with the Iron Blade, in 2003, Fewell worked tirelessly to bring the Class of 1963 back together for their 40th Reunion. An active member of the newly formed Lynchburg Alumni Chapter, he is equally enthusiastic about making this effort a success. He recently accepted the role of class agent and will work with the alumni office as a liaison between the College and his graduating class.

Tracy Signon Holley ’96, Assistant Director of Alumni and Family Services, praises Fewell for his reunion planning efforts, “David has been a phenomenal help to the Alumni Office and he worked very hard to make his most recent reunion special for his classmates. He loves Ferrum so much and we so appreciate the time and effort he gives to help bring others to our gatherings.”

David Fewell is unwavering in his commitment to his alma mater and, for the past 40 years, he has been hitting the pavement to spread the word about Ferrum. He began with selling advertisements for his school and now he serves as the best kind of advertisement for his College.

Laurie Borslein ’03

Since graduating Cum Laude with a degree in English, Laurie Borslein has inspired readers of two newspapers as a staff writer and editorial assistant, has managed an online column, and has served her alma mater as a writer for the Ferrum Magazine.

As Editor in Chief of the Iron Blade, Borslein put her heart into her role and was intensely passionate about creating an effective student newspaper. On working on the Iron Blade staff, Borslein shares, “Pulling the paper out of my mailbox was always the highlight of my week. Honestly, the newspaper quickly became my life while I was at Ferrum and so many memories revolve around that… I have so many memories of dropping by the Iron Blade office between classes or before meals to find the work student or web designer down there. We’d talk about everything and nothing. Such a variety of people all brought together by a love for a small college paper.”

Very much the extrovert, she was a visible figure around campus. Borslein believed in being heavily involved and beyond her full schedule with classes and the Iron Blade, she took part in the radio station, literary magazine, and a social sorority.

“Laurie was always bright and wearing a warm smile, even at 8:00 a.m.” recalls George Loveland who supervised her as a work/study in the Library. “She never missed a shift. She was eager to take on new things. She saw problems as challenges and addressed them creatively, but she was professional enough to know when to stop and ask for guidance. Laurie was one of the best work-study students ever assigned to the Library.”

Borslein’s proudest day was the one in which she received her diploma from Ferrum. She vividly recalls that poignant moment, “I was three credits shy when I walked across the stage at commencement, so while graduation was a wonderful experience, I still wasn’t done. I finished my internship in the Public Relations Office that summer and I got a call from the Registrar’s Office that my diploma was ready. I was working that night at the Ferrum Minute Market and I asked my friend Richard to pick it up for me. He brought it in and I opened it very carefully and slid it out so I could see it. At the bottom was the Cum Laude seal. I had worked very hard my last two years at Ferrum to correct the mistakes I made my freshman and sophomore years, but at the end of it all, I thought I was still going to be under a 3.4. So there I was, behind the counter of the Ferrum Minute Market, crying my eyes out. I don’t know when I’ve believed in myself more than at that moment.”

She currently enjoys a multifaceted role as an Editorial Assistant with the Roanoke Times. As an online columnist for twenty-something scene, she serves as the cultural link to the arts and entertainment opportunities for young adults in the Valley. A designer at heart, Borslein thoroughly enjoys and looks forward to her time working alongside the layout editor planning the “Neighbors” section of each Thursday’s paper. She writes for the weekly “News You Can Use” feature that can be seen on page B2 every Wednesday. A self described ‘health nut’ she also manages a health column for the “Neighbors” section.

Dedicated to sharing “Not Self, But Others” with her audience, Borslein uses her gift of writing as a way to inspire others to be involved as conscientious citizens and to give back to their communities. With the Ferrum family she imparts her mantra of “schooling it”: “Whatever you choose to do with the rest of your life, school it every single day. And if you’re unhappy in your current position, do everything you can to get yourself in a place or job that will make you happy, and then school it everyday.”
Since his days at Ferrum Junior College, Johnson’s journeys in faith and service have led him to touch numerous lives in need.

A dedicated member of both the campus and local community, Johnson’s student life was a balance of academic, athletic, and church commitments. He represented Ferrum at public relations events throughout the state as part of a traveling team of student spokespersons for the college. During the summer of 1963, Johnson traveled to Ontario, Canada representing Ferrum at a forum on alcoholism at McMasters University. He served as head trainer for the football, basketball, and baseball teams and often officiated at intramural events. As a member of the Circuit Riders, Johnson spent nearly every Sunday filling in for churches in need of a pastor. He estimates preaching over 75 times during his time at Ferrum.

After graduation, he entered the United States Air Force and continued to serve God and community. Johnson maintained constant participation in church activities throughout his travels and relocations. His involvement includes membership on several church boards, and time served as a church treasurer, usher and lay pastor at various occasions throughout his career. While stationed in Ogden, Utah, he served on the Rescue Mission Board of Directors. Although not a member of the congregation, Johnson spent 18 months filling in for a Lutheran pastor on a monthly basis.

Johnson and his family remain passionate about serving the children of their community. While stationed in Wakkanai, Japan, they took in a boy whose mother had fallen seriously ill. A similar situation occurred while they were in Ogden when they opened their home to a six year old girl who lost her mother in a house fire.

In 1970, Johnson was named as one of the Junior Chamber of Commerce Outstanding Young Men of America. He also received the Meritorious Service Medal and the Air Force Commendation Medal while on active duty with the Air Force.

Upon his retirement from the Air Force, Johnson and his family settled in Northglenn, CO. Johnson recently ended a ten year term as director of the children’s ministry at his church. During this time, attendance grew from 60 participants to over 300. Johnson is also involved with teaching Junior Achievement groups. He has served on the Northglenn Board of Adjustment since 1988.

Celebrating over 36 years of marriage, he and his wife Joyce have one daughter, Wendy, and four grandchildren.

In recognition of his tireless service to church and community, Ferrum College is pleased to honor him with its 2004 Distinguished Alumni Award.
Since her time at Ferrum, Williams’ independent spirit coupled with her unparalleled ability to bring people together, have been an inspiration to all who know her. Williams’ tireless reunion efforts have made her the nucleus behind Alumni Weekends on campus. Just barely a teenager when she arrived, Williams came to Ferrum from Eden, NC on a piano scholarship. Known as “Hook Shot” Spencer by her girls’ basketball teammates, she was always an active presence on campus.

After Ferrum, Williams studied at home to earn an accounting diploma while caring for her two daughters and juggling full-time employment. Her determination paid off as she went on to a successful career in office management and accounting. She served as the Controller for Meredith College for eight years prior to her retirement in the early ’80s.

Regardless of setting, Williams has remained committed to serving the church. Williams played the organ and directed church choirs in Eden, Wallace, and Jacksonville, NC. She was recently recognized as a congregation favorite by the choir of Rockfish Presbyterian Church in Wallace. Upon moving to Chicago, she continued to play the organ for local churches as a substitute. She served as treasurer and kindergarten teacher for several years at Morgan Park Presbyterian Church. After relocating to California, Williams was confirmed in the Episcopal Church and became an active member of the Episcopal Church Women and the Cursillo community. Working with several Cursillo teams, she gave inspirational talks and shared the message of Christ with others. Williams returned to North Carolina and joined the Church of the Servant where she is active in a weekly prayer group and assists with coordination of the adult education program. An integral part of the parish’s pastoral care program, she visits the sick, prepares meals, takes members to medical appointments, and coordinates annual retreats.

Her steadfast devotion to family and friends is evident through her efforts to acknowledge and celebrate life's special occasions. She organizes family reunions and frequently corresponds with hundreds of her alumni friends. She currently serves Ferrum College as the Fifty Year Club President. Her sense of humor and creativity have made a tremendous impact on the reunion events she organizes.

Her volunteer efforts include assisting in her church’s thrift shop and at the local public radio station where her daughter Laura works. Williams resides in Wilmington with Laura. Williams also is the proud grandmother of her daughter Patricia’s two children.

In recognition of her selfless dedication to family, church, and community, Ferrum College is pleased to honor Eunice Williams with its 2004 Distinguished Alumni Award.
In her twenty years since graduation, Betsy Baker Dietz has led her days devoted to making a difference in the lives of children and those in need. Her desire to strengthen her community through service was evidenced as early as her time spent at Ferrum.

Dietz came to Ferrum from Danville, VA. An active presence on campus, she served on the Iron Blade staff and joined the pom pon squad and a sorority. Already answering the call to help others, she spent time tutoring other students in math and volunteered locally as a Big Sister.

Dietz began volunteering for the Make a Wish Foundation in 1996. In this role she worked to grant wishes for children diagnosed with life-threatening medical conditions. Her dedication to children led her to volunteer at Brent Elementary School in Washington, DC where she spent time on her lunch hour reading to students. She also became a volunteer math tutor for the “Capitol Kids” program.

In 1999, Dietz was selected as one of Arlington County’s recipients of the “Most Outstanding Volunteer Award” in appreciation of her years of devoted service as legal guardian to a blind and developmentally challenged local woman named Alberta. In her role as guardian, Dietz has been the lifeline and complete support for Alberta. Her roles have ranged from finding suitable housing for her after Alberta was faced with an eviction, to taking her to and from medical appointments, to paying her bills, to helping her through the numerous decisions of daily life.

Dietz presently serves as the Regional Director of AYUSA, a non-profit organization that works to promote opportunities for students both in the United States and throughout the world through foreign exchange. She has remained committed to this cause since 1991 when she began serving as a host family to exchange students.

Dietz has worked for Senator Robert C. Byrd of West Virginia since 1992.

In recognition of her tireless service to community, Ferrum College is pleased to honor her with its 2004 Distinguished Alumni Award.

Call for Nominations for the 2005 Distinguished Alumni Awards

Ferrum College will recognize the outstanding achievements of alumni who exemplify the three eras of Ferrum College: one representing Ferrum Training School, one representing Ferrum Junior College, and one representing Ferrum College.

Nominees should:
- have a record of exceptional career achievement and of service to their community, church, or other organizations.
- have been active in College life during their time at Ferrum and have remained involved in and supportive of Ferrum College as alumni.
- be an alumnus or alumna of Ferrum College. If not a graduate, nominees should have attended for three or more semesters.
- exemplify in all aspects of their lives the spirit of Ferrum’s motto, “Not Self, But Others.”

Names, addresses, and biographical information should be sent to Ferrum College, Alumni Office, PO Box 1000, Ferrum, VA 24088-9000, by FAX 540-365-4203, or by E-Mail to alumni@ferrum.edu. All nominations must be received by January 17, 2005.
Alumni Weekend 2004

1940’s Luther Derby, Pauline Yates Clark, Charles Menefee, Sam Stevens, Sarah Hartnett, Lois Poland Bersch, Jean Lugar, Ethelyne Daniel, Lawrence Lugar, Vergil Spencer, Jesse Meeler, John Plymale, Jr., Walter Boyd, Robert Lovin

1930’s Ila Williams, Ralph Knowles, Margaret Knowles, Curtis Prillaman, Vieva Sneed Clary

1950’s John Bell, Mary Bell, Teresa MacGregor, Hugh Vincent

1970’s Phyllis Lavinder, Jane Walsh Dittamo


Senior Dinner Dance 2004

Melissa Looney Cornett ‘88, Rebecca McGhee Preston ‘96, Annie Reynolds Looney ’53, Tracy Sigmon Holley ’96, Patty Peters Sigmon ’73, Martha Morris Sawyers ’73, J. Glynn Loope ’84, John H. Payne ’92

Steve Harmon ‘96, Carrie Harmon, Marion Bailie ’90, Marion Price ’88, Dickie Turner

Front Side (left to right): John DeTrana ’93, Heather MacDonald ’93, Kevin Kline ’93, Alice McDaniel ’03, Dr. Braaten, Carol Johnson ’66, Elizabeth Duvall ’64, Daniel Duvall, Joanna Coleman. Back Side (left to right): Don Chauncey, Jr. ’85, Kelly Edmonds Vietske ’94, Robin Melichar ’92, Matt Dawson ’01


Left Side (front to back): Shelton Wine, Regenia Knupp Wine ’67, Kendel Kelley, Mike Kelley ’96, Don Jennings ’58, Lucy Ewing Martin ’64, Right Side (front to back): John Bell ’52, Mary Phelps Bell ’53, Joanna Coleman
40s

50s
Walter G. Haynie ’50, of Lancaster, has retired as a regional administrator officer and assistant vice president of Bank of America.

Hal Blankenship ’55, of New York, appeared as Jerry Cohan in “George M. Cohan Revue” at the Kennedy Center in Washington, DC. He currently operates Walnut Hills Farms, an operation with over 200 head of cattle and 60 head of sheep.

Frank “Tommy” Davis ’59, of Floyd, is retired. He would love to hear from friends who attended Ferrum at the same time.

60s
James E. Bennett II ’63, of Fremont, NC, has retired, as an assistant principal, after 32 years in education. He currently owns and runs a driving school in Wayne County.

H. Dwight Taylor ’65, of Mt. Sterling, KY, is self-employed as a manufacturer’s representative.

Opal Delong Brown ’66, of Hayes, is employed by Gloucester County Public Schools as an elementary teacher. She is a proud grandmother of three children.

R. David Priest ’66, of Glen Allen, was installed as State National Director of the Independent Insurance Agents of Virginia for the 2004/2005 fiscal year and will serve a three-year term.

Robbie L. Fielder ’67, of Roanoke, is Director of the Homeowner’s Association for Commonwealth Builders, Inc.

Sharon Hudson Mitchell ’67, of Hiddenite, NC, is retired from teaching after 35 years with Iredell-Statesville Schools. She, with her husband and son, is currently operating Walnut Hills Farm, an operation with over 200 head of cattle and 60 head of sheep.

Bill Shockley ’67, of Cheriton, has been appointed by Governor Mark Warner to the Virginia Cotton Board. Bill is the Northampton County Extension Agent and owner of Woodside Farms.


Horace F. Green ’69 wed Jeannie Green on January 1, 2004. They reside in Ferrum. He is an assistant football coach for Ferrum College.

70s
Kathy R. Burk ’70 wed John R. Pennington on December 13, 2003. They reside in Lynchburg. She is employed by Monelison Middle School as a seventh grade teacher.

Cindy Cox ’72, of Fredericksburg, is employed by Spotsylvania County Schools as a teacher.

Laura E. Harrison ’72, of Danville, is a teacher for Pittsylvania County Schools.

Cindie Staack ’72, of Midlothian, is employed by Chesterfield County Schools as a speech language pathologist.

James Larry Tharpe ’72, of Keswick, is employed by Albemarle County Schools as a special education teacher.

Robert C. Seroka, Jr. ’73, of Wynantskill, NY, is President and CEO of American Automobile Association-Hudson.

Lawrence Thompson, Jr. ’73 of Woodbridge, is the senior pastor at St. Paul United Methodist Church in northern Virginia. His father, Lawrence Thompson Sr., died on July 24, 2003. We regret that he was incorrectly listed in the last issue of the magazine.

Lena Hatcher Beason ’74, of Roanoke, is employed by Roanoke County Public Schools as Assistant Principal at Penn Forest Elementary School.

Tedd “Herby” Beck ’74, of Richmond, is employed by NRS as a broker.

Rick Etter ’74, of Leesburg, is employed by the City of Alexandria Fire Department as a deputy fire marshal.

George Masters ’74, of Mt. Laurel, NJ, is employed by Burlington City Board of Education as a teacher/coach. He has retired as head football coach after six years, with a 37-24 record, two league titles, and four playoff appearances.

Jeff Bradberry ’80, of Atlanta, GA, is employed by IKON Office Solutions as a major account representative. He would love to touch base with friends from Ferrum.

Lynda Leigh Rabon ’80 wed James A. McNeely Jr. on April 3, 2004. They reside in Durham, NC. She is employed by Orange County Social Services as a social worker.

Connie Nichols Slusher ’80, of Altavista, is employed by Rehabilitation Associates of Central Virginia as a physical therapy assistant. She has two children, John Paul and Michaela.

James M. Taylor Jr. ’80, of Gainesville, GA, is employed by Hall County, Georgia as a risk manager.
John M. Hill '81 and his wife, Karen, announce the birth of their son, Caleb James, on October 23, 2003. They reside in Emmaus, PA. He is employed by the Holiday Inn Conference Center as a banquet captain.

Kathleen Morley '82 wed Michael David St. John on May 10, 2003. They would also like to announce the birth of their daughter, Taylor Julia, on February 5, 2004. She joins big brother Matthew and big sister Katie. Kathleen works at Sheltering Arms Rehab Hospital.

Susan S. Weisgerber '82, of Waynesboro, is Development Director with the Blue Ridge Area Food Bank.

Rose "Ree" Cinelli '83, of Elkton, MD, is employed by Cecil County Public Schools as a substitute teacher/parent resource.

Coris David Throckmorton '83, of Midlothian, is employed by Chesterfield County Fire and EMS as an assistant fire marshal.

Kevin C. Burzio '84, of Jefferson, MD, is employed by Verizon Laboratories as a New Technology Lab Engineer.

Carthan Currin III '84, and his role as Executive Director of the Virginia Tobacco Commission, was recently featured in the Richmond Times Dispatch.

Ray Daisey '84, of Chincoteague Island, is employed by Syisco Food Services as a senior field service administrator. He completed a year of fill-in for the Eastern Shore district of the United Methodist Church as lay-supply pastor of Saxis United Methodist Church. He also purchased and publishes a travel magazine called Chincoteague Waves.

Shelby Irving '84, of Danville, was promoted to the position of Assistant Fire Marshal for the City of Danville.

Cindy Holman Laing '84, of Denver, CO, works for Budget Truck Rental.

Major James M. Marye '84, of Carlisle, PA, is serving in the U.S. Army as a Lieutenant Colonel. He commanded a battalion in Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and later in Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. He is currently attending the U.S. Army War College.

Susan L. Thomas '84 of Lovettsville, is employed by Wellstat Biologics, Inc. as a manufacturing team leader.

Tom Forbes '85, of Pullman, WA, is employed by Schweitzer Engineering Laboratories, Inc. as a software application developer. He is also a deacon at Emmanuel Baptist Church. Tom and Susan have three children, Alexandra, Samantha and Megan.

Robert Langford '85, of Oakton, is Owner and President of Med-Scene, L.L.C., a continuing medical education event and video production company.

Bruce Penland '85 and his wife, Shannon, announce the birth of their daughter, Alexandra Ann, in June 2003. He is employed by Occohannock on the Bay Camp & Retreat Center.

Robert F. Morris '86, of Newport News, is employed by Northrop Grumman Newport News Shipbuilding as a designer.

Lee Owens '86, of Hampton, is Regional Vice President for General Electric Financial.

Ed Pilegord Jr. '86, of Salisbury, NC, is employed by Rowan Salisbury Schools as a teacher.

Barbara Roberson Mardigian '87, of Midlothian, is employed by Henrico County Mental Health as an adolescent substance abuse clinician.

Kevin Quinn '87, of Virginia Beach, is Vice-President of Business Development for Countrywide Home Loans.

Becky Ricardo '87 and Ted Price '90 announce the birth of their daughter, Jasmine Price, on May 28, 2004. They continue to reside in Goochland County and work in the Richmond area.

Joseph E. Andrews '88, of Lynch Station, has been named BWXTechnologies’ (Nuclear Products Division) Division Planner within the contracts and purchasing department at BWXT in Lynchburg.

David M. Harris, Jr. '88, of Richmond, is employed by Spencer Brothers Inc. as a lubricant sales manager.

Brent T. Williams '88 and his wife, Sharon, announce the birth of their daughters, Britt and Shuler, on May 23, 2003. They join big brothers Benjamin and Grant.

Gregory Chitwood '89 and his wife, Kimberly, announce the birth of their daughter, Hannah Marie, on January 23, 2004. They reside in Rocky Mount.

Levin J. White '89, of Crozier, is employed by Richmond City Police Department as a forensic detective.

90s

Marguerite Bell Cross '90 and her husband, Gary, announce the birth of their son, Lane Gillette, on July 29, 2003. He joins big sister Taylor.

Melinda Goins '90, of Leesburg, is Director of Marketing for the Dowell Group.

T. D. Holsclaw '90 and his wife, Pornpun Bowornkit Holsclaw, announce the birth of their daughter, Dhamisa Jocelyn on January 6, 2004. He is employed by Fairfax County Public Schools as an English as a Second Language teacher/coach.

Laura A. Roth '90, of Roanoke, is entering medical school for physician assistant studies.

James K. Walker '90, of Lynchburg, is Director of Investment Sales for VACORP FCU.

William N. Bunch Jr. '91, of Woodbury, NJ, is a HVAC technician, employed by Mathis Heating and Air.

Elizabeth Schmick '91 wed Timothy M. Walsh on April 20, 2002. They reside in Midlothian. The following bridesmaids were former Ferrum students: Kerry Lyons Abrams ’92, Denise Dale Clarke, Kristin Clous ’92, Wendy Robinson Hunt, Martha Colston O’Sullivan ’89 and Heather Wasiuk Williams.

Scott Wampler ’91, of West Point, is a hotel general manager/controller for Chandra, Inc.

Robert Cone '92 and his wife, Yohna, announce the birth of their daughter, Colby Alexander, on March 4, 2003. They reside in Harrisonburg, VA. He works for MED3000 as a senior Network Advisor.

Peter '92, and Angela Culotta Cappelli '94 announce the birth of their third child, Colby Alexander, on March 4, 2003. They reside in Mechanicsville.

Ray Goode '92, of Stephens City, is employed by Forest Pharmaceuticals as a territory sales representative. He was #1 in market share growth for March/April 2004.
Virginia Henson Joyner '92, of Midlothian, is employed by Chesterfield County Schools as a special education teacher.

Robyn Posey Parnell '92 and her husband, Mark, announce the birth of their son, Parker, on March 27, 2003. Robyn works for Fayette County School System. She has also started her own acting/singing school for kids, called The Performing Arts Studio.

John Payne '92 and his wife, Tricia, announce the birth of their son, William James, on January 21, 2004. John is a membership manager for North Carolina Zoological Society.

Susan Winn Shomo '92 and her husband, James, have started a nondenominalional church in South Hill.

Robert Bratcher '93, of Roanoke, is employed by Advance Auto Parts as a regional risk services manager.

Crystal Clinebell Canterbury '93, of Roanoke, is employed by Honeytree Early Learning Centers as Director.

Kenneth G. Carter, Jr. '93, of Rock Hill, SC, is a national accounts manager employed by National Gypsum Company.

G. Scott David '93 and his wife, Shannon, announce the birth of their daughter, Madison, on January 27, 2004. Scott is a professional land consultant for Timberline Corporation.


Tracy Johnson '93, of Endentont, NC, is a teacher, employed by Chowan Middle School.

Edward Ned Jones '93 and his wife, Jennifer, announce the birth of their daughter, Laura Faye, on February 8, 2004. They reside in Amelia. He is employed by VA Tech SPAREC as a farm manager.

Jeffrey L. Jones '93 and his wife, Theresa, announce the birth of their daughter, Catherine, on January 30, 2004. He works for TN and Associates, Inc. as a construction manager.

Anthony S. Wesson '93 is the owner of Computer Troubleshooters of Prince George.

Elizabeth “Brook” Willis Porter '93 and her husband, Jeffrey, announce the birth of their son, Seth, on February 18, 2003. Brook is employed by Hampton-Newport News Community Services as a clinical services supervisor.

Melissa Wilson '93, of Dallas, TX, is a membership coordinator for the Salesmanship Club of Dallas.

Paul M. Baker '94, of Arlington, is employed by the Federal Government as a military analyst.

Tammy Whaling Brown '94, of Moneta, is employed by Bedford County Schools as a GED teacher. She has two children, Carson Stras Brown and Haley Mae Brown. She plays soccer and co-chairs the Roanoke Chapter of the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation.

Thomas Cagley '94, of Virginia Beach, is employed by General Dynamics as a satellite communications director.

Chrisy Morde Hrivnak '94, of Pembroke, MA, is employed by The Furniture Market as an office manager.

Matt Lawson '94, of Williamsburg, is employed by Tabb High School as head football coach and teacher.

Luipold Miller '94, of Munich, Germany, is employed by the University of Munich as a research scientist.

Lynn and his wife, Jennifer, announce the birth of their daughter, Laura Faye, on February 8, 2004. They reside in Amelia. He is employed by VA Tech SPAREC as a farm manager.

Edward Ned Jones '93 and his wife, Jennifer, announce the birth of their daughter, Laura Faye, on February 8, 2004. They reside in Amelia. He is employed by VA Tech SPAREC as a farm manager.

Jeff '96 and Margaret Compton St. Clair '94 announce the birth of their son, Peyton Edward, on January 30, 2004. They reside in Richmond. Jason works as Vice President of Marketing and Sales for a local environmental firm and owns a small business. Margaret obtained her L.P.C. and is a contract manager for a utilization management company, assisting state Medicaid agencies with their behavioral health programs.

Ray Alexander '95, of Mechanicville, is a support services officer for the Hanover Fire-EMS Department.

Jennifer Scott Brown '95 and her husband, Michael, announce the birth of their son, Jacob Robert, on August 12, 2003. He joins big brother Mikey. Jennifer is employed by Carilion Health Systems in the Pediatric Medical Education Department.

Alex Cude '95, of Greensboro, NC, is employed by Gilbarco as an inventory control specialist.

Jeff Harmon '95, of Richmond, is employed by Brett Aggregates, Inc. as a safety and environmental manager.

David C. Hudgins '95, of Williamsburg, is Vice Director for Drucker and Falk, LLC.

Emily J. Gwinn Messenger '95, of Callaway, is employed by Roanoke College as Senior Accountant-Operations. Her husband, Jonathan L. Messenger '94, is employed by First Union National Bank of Virginia as a business analyst.

Chester F. Cherry III '96, of Ashburn, is employed by Target as an executive team leader.


Jon Cohn '96, of California, is employed by The Groundlings as an executive assistant to the director.

Robert Diggs '96, of Daytona Beach, FL, is employed by Gambro Renal Products in production.

William H. Hall '96 and his wife, Rebecca, announce the birth of their daughter, Isabel Rose, on May 18, 2004. They reside in Stephenson. William is employed by Sherando High School as a teacher and head football coach.

Nicole Hines '96 wed John F. Midkiff on May 8, 2004. They will reside at Smith Mountain Lake. She is employed by AREVA in computer systems administration.

Carrie Wilbur Hoyle '96, of Leland, NC, is a purchasing officer for the University of North Carolina at Wilmington.

Mike Kelley '96, of Staunton, has been promoted to the position of Manager of Residential Programs at Woodrow Wilson Rehabilitation Center.
Laurie King '96 wed Leon Gholson '95 on August 2, 2003. They reside in Chester. Laurie is employed at Thomas Dale High School as a special education teacher. Leon is opening a day school for children with emotional disabilities.

Cathy R. Layne '96, of Virginia Beach, is employed by Emergency Physician's of Tidewater as a physician's assistant.

David '96 and Shannah Clark Wilbun '96 announce the birth of their daughter, Megan Ashley, on June 25, 2004. She joins big sister Bethany. David is a store manager, employed by Wilbun's Supermarket, Inc. Shannah is a purchasing assistant for Thomasville Furniture.

Andrew Zadnik '96 wed Allyson Patterson on June 12, 2004. They will reside in Ruther Glen. He works for the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries.

Carla A. Blackmon '97, of San Mateo, CA, is employed by the Department of Homeland Security/Customs and Border Protection as an agriculture specialist/canine enforcement officer.

Ned Blair '97, of Georgetown, DE, is employed by Kent County and the Greater Dover Delaware Convention Center as Director of Convention Sales and Marketing.

David '97 and Jaki Pahel Bonesteel '99 announce the birth of their son, Benjamin David, on April 2, 2004.

Jeff '97 and Kelly Seal Davoud '97 announce the birth of their son, Kaleb Hunter, on May 14, 2004.

Michelle Aliff Hall '97 and her husband, Joey, announce the birth of their son, Aiden Michael, on December 27, 2003.

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Michelle Aliff Hall '97 and her husband, Joey, announce the birth of their son, Aiden Michael, on December 27, 2003.

JASON L. KLINK '97, of Gloucester, is employed by Gloucester County Sheriff's Office as a deputy sheriff.

ROBERT PARDI '97, of Lindenwold, NJ, is employed by the Hall of Justice, Camden, NJ as a probation officer.

RICHARD "RICHIE" '97 and CAMERON SMITHER PEETERS '99 announce the birth of their daughter, Cadence Lee, on June 16, 2004. They reside in Vinton. Richie is employed by Roanoke Catholic Schools as the Athletic Director and Cameron is employed with Bank of America as a commercial banker.

ANDY '97 and CRYSTAL PULLEY '99 announce the birth of their son, Gavin Andrew, on March 26, 2004. Andy is employed by Roanoke County Police as an officer and has a K-9 partner that works with him every day. Crystal is employed by the Virginia Department of Corrections as a probation and parole officer in Roanoke.

GEORGE E. ROBINSON '97 and his wife, Lisa, announce the birth of their son, Sage Zyron Liss-Robinson, on February 26, 2004. George is employed by New Century Investments as a general manager.

MATTHEW SEYMOUR '97, of Lorton, is employed by the City of Alexandria as an administrative assistant. In addition, he is a part-time air talent for B101.5 FM in Fredericksburg.

Michele Aliff Hall '97 and her husband, Joey, announce the birth of their son, Aiden Michael, on December 27, 2003.

Michael Crossan '00, Stephanie Stephenson Crossan '99.

KELLY MELLICHAMPE '98, of Port Orange, FL, is employed by International Speedway Corporation as a human resources analyst.

KEN ROE '98, of Bowie, MD, is employed by AMS as a junior developer.

JASON '98 and ERIN HANLY UPDEGRAFF '99 announce the birth of their son, Curtis Jacob, on April 29, 2004. He joins older brother Jared. Jason is employed by the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue as a firefighter. Erin works for Phillip S. Griffin, IL as a paralegal.

ROBERT VANSELLOW '98, of Falls Church, is Director of Sales and Marketing for Radiologix, Inc.

BRYSON '98 and LORI WARD SMITH '98 announce the birth of their son, Jackson Thomas, on December 23, 2003. They reside in Burke.

AMY MABRY '99 wed Mark Cundiff on July 17, 2004. They reside in Roanoke. She is employed by Consultants in Cardiology as a file clerk.

GARRETT DELMAS '99, of Danville, is a water specialist for Kellogg Brown and Root/Halliburton. He is currently stationed in Iraq monitoring the water at Camp Speicher near Tikrit.

Heather Marie Gusler Flynn '99, of Roanoke, is employed by Friendship Manor as a social worker.

J.C. Harmon '99, of Glen Allen, earned his master's degree in Sports Administration from Michigan State University in December of 2002. He is employed by Fork Union Military Academy as a resource instructor/assistant football coach.

Christie Hope '99 wed Derek Greenland on May 8, 2004. They reside in Shepherdstown, WV. She is employed by N.J. Sullivan Company as an office manager/bookkeeper. Three of her bridesmaids were: Heather Hutson '00, Cameron Etmon Cunningham '00, and Catherine Wayland '99.

Ivy Larrimore '99, of Preston, MD, works for Crossroads Community Inc. as a program support specialist.

WES MATTERA '99, of New Bern, NC, is employed by New Bern High School as a teacher/football and baseball coach.


Amy S. Vess Melvin '99, of Eagle Rock, is employed by Foot Levelers, Inc. as a software development coordinator.

Steve Shandor '99 and his wife, Melanie, former Ferrum College's Director of Human Resources, announce the birth of their son, Steven Chester, on April 11, 2004.

Kelly Marie Webber '99, of Edinboro, PA, is employed by Royal Academy for Music and Performing Arts as a voice instructor.

00s

David E. Coleman '00 wed Elizabeth Drake in May of 2003. They reside in Waynesboro. He is employed by Conservation Services, Inc. as a forestry consultant.
Michael ’00 and Stephanie Stephenson Crossan ’98 announce the birth of their son, Braden Michael, on June 20, 2004. They reside in Roanoke. Michael is employed by Franklin County Public Schools as a sixth grade special education teacher. Stephanie is employed by Franklin County Public Schools as an elementary teacher.

Dawn K. Epperson ’00, of Cape Coral, FL, is employed by Lee County School Board as a science teacher/athletic trainer for Mariner High School.

Amy N. Hayes ’00, of Tulsa, OK, graduated, with distinction, from the George Washington University Doctor of Medicine degree program on May 16, 2004. She will complete her residency at In His Image Medical Clinic in Tulsa, OK.

Glen T. Hofstrom ’00, of Fort Bragg, NC, is employed by the U.S. Government as a medic.

Tammy R. Martin ’00, of Mechanicsville, received her Master of Education degree in special education from the University of Tennessee, Chattanooga, in May 2004.

Doug Russell ’00, of Panama City, FL, is employed by the United States Air Force.

Suzanne T. Stoneman ’00, of Roanoke, is employed by Carillion Consolidated Laboratory as a clinical laboratory scientist.

Brian C. Walton ’00 wed Amy Kimmerly on January 14, 2004. They will reside in Huber Heights, OH. He was promoted to First Lieutenant in the United States Air Force on March 1, 2004. He also completed his master’s degree in International Relations and Comparative Politics from Wright State University.

Amanda C. Ackley ’01, of Lynchburg, is employed by Cave Spring High School as a distance-learning assistant and Webmaster.

Joey Gause ’01, of Winter Springs, FL, is employed by Lyman High School as a world history teacher.

Joanna Gruver ’01 and Harold Ingram ’64 are co-owners of Haywood’s Jewelers at Smith Mountain Lake.

Seth ’01 and Tamburgay A. Feddorco Hall ’97 announce the birth of their daughter, Lara Alexis, on January 22, 2004. Lara joins big sister Rya Marie. Seth is employed by MGM Transport as an auditor. Tamburgay is a probation officer with the Department of Juvenile Justice.

Brid Dardis Harris ’01, of Fairfax, is attending the University of Tennessee-Knoxville. She is working towards a master’s degree in Elementary Education and Reading Education.

Alyson Danielle Jeter ’01 wed Martin Edward Tonjes on March 23, 2003. They reside in Denver, CO. She is employed as a middle school teacher in Denver.

Martin Kiser ’01, of Salem, is employed by Wachovia Bank. He has been promoted to the position of Incident Responder-Corporate Security. Brian and Christa Painter ’99 are engaged.

Matthew Martz ’01, of Manassas, is employed by Prince William County Police Department as a police officer.

Sue Plaisance ’01, of Rocky Mount, is the owner of Old Kingery’s Store and The Country Creole Deli. They serve all meals and also do off premises catering.

Karen Virginia Helton ’02 wed Jay Robert Greeley, Jr. ’02 on July 24, 2004. They reside in Woodbridge. Cindy George ’02 was the matron of honor. Bridesmaids were Whitney DeJarnette ’03 and Candice Martin ’02. Joey Carter ’02 was the best man in the wedding. Matt Dawson ’01 and Steven Helton ’08 also served in the wedding.

Margaret Johnson ’02, of Northport, AL, is Owner/Manager of Hoofbeats Equine Emporium. She and Joey Cornwell ’02 are engaged.

Rebecca Morris ’02 is attending DePaul University. She is working toward a degree in theatre. This summer she worked as an associate producer for a film.

Melissa Alice Young ’02 wed Duane Wray Hale on June 26, 2004. They will reside in Glade Hill. She is employed by the Franklin County Public Schools and is enrolled in a masters program at the University of Virginia.

Laurie A. Borslien ’03, of Vinton, is employed by The Roanoke Times as an on-line columnist.

Heather Bowles ’03, of Vinton, is employed by Abbott Trailways as a tour coordinator/computer services technician. She has a daughter, Allysia Paige.
Jason L. Bryant ’03 is attending Divinity School at Duke University, working on a Master of Divinity degree.

Joseph Peter Cerebe ’03 wed Traci Renee Sawyers on March 6, 2004. They reside in Rocky Mount.

Lori Helms ’03 wed Josh Compton on January 10, 2004. They reside in Rocky Mount. Lori is a realtor with Boone and Company, Realtors.

Carrie M. Conques ’03, of Fairfax, is employed by St. Mark’s Catholic School as a kindergarten teacher. She is also coaching girl’s lacrosse at Paul VI High School.

David Wayne Hill ’03, of Lowesville, works for Nelson County Sheriff’s Department as a sheriff’s deputy.

Alice W. McDaniel ’03, of Manassas, is a high school math teacher.

Hope Easley Montgomery ’03, of Rocky Mount, is employed by Franklin County Public Schools as an English as a Second Language instructor.

Matthew Overstreet ’03, of Forest, is employed by the National Park Service as a forestry technician.

Christopher Patrick ’03, of Fair Lawn, NJ, is currently living with his long time girlfriend, Chantelle, and is working at a CPA firm. We regret that he was incorrectly recognized in the last magazine.

Jeremy Poling ’03, of Roanoke, is employed by Patrick Henry High School as a math teacher. His wife, Mary Anne O’Toole Poling ’03, is employed by Hidden Valley High School as a teacher.

Jeffrey D. Stowe ’03, of Norfolk, works for Plasser American as a network engineer.

Christopher Kearnes ’04, of Harrisonburg, is employed by The Frazier Quarry, Inc. as a health and safety coordinator. He and Amy Conklin ’02 are engaged.

Andrew Baskin, a faculty member at Ferrum College from 1973 to 1983, was awarded the 2004 Seabury Award for excellence in teaching from Berea College.

In Memoriam

Millie Gilbert Burris ’24, of Patrick County, died April 25, 2004.


Philip L. Cumbia ’51, of Richmond, died April 8, 2004.


Leland W. Calvin, Jr. ’56, of Houston, TX, died March 26, 2004.


Caroline P. Smith ’95, of Fayetteville, GA, died June 9, 2004.

Jason Lee Williams ’00, of Onancock, died March 6, 2004.

The Legacy Scholarship

Many alumni feel so positively about their Ferrum experience that they strongly encourage their children to attend the school. To recognize the importance of our alumni and to help families continue in the Ferrum tradition, the College is awarding an annual $2000 scholarship to children of alumni. Prospective students should note their alumni status on their application to the college. To learn more about the Legacy Scholarship and its requirements, contact the Office of Admissions at (540) 365-4290 or 1-800-868-9797.

Speaking Engagements for Dr. Braaten

Wed., Feb. 23
Guest speaker at Ash Wednesday Service, Arizona

Tues., March 15
Speak at UM Danville District Ministers’ mtg., Ferrum campus

Sat., March 19
Guest Speaker at UMW Day Luncheon in Lynchburg (location TBA)
As I travel frequently to meet with alumni and friends of Ferrum, I am often struck by one consistent theme: Opportunity. For alumni of Ferrum College, whether they attended Ferrum Training School or earned a bachelor’s degree, Ferrum either enabled one to attain an education where few other opportunities existed, or the College gave new opportunities for personal growth and intellectual curiosity. Friends of the College understand, too, that Ferrum is a life-changing institution, and while they may not have lived the Ferrum experience as a student, they give generously to support the uniqueness of the College. Each gift to Ferrum is given in a spirit of thankfulness and sacrifice, and because of that, your gifts are even more precious to us.

The fiscal year that ended June 30, 2004 highlights the extent to which alumni and friends of Ferrum College will go to give gladly, cheerfully, and for the benefit of today’s Ferrum students. In the fiscal year 2003-2004, the College received $3,557,600 from 1,980 donors. This gift income is an increase of 6% over the previous fiscal year. Over $1.7 million was given for endowment, most for student scholarships. This past year, we introduced a new giving level known as The Arthur Society to recognize donors who support the Ferrum Fund with gifts of at least $1,000. We welcomed 39 charter members to the Society and encourage more alumni and friends to join this year and support the College with an unrestricted gift at this leadership level.

Ferrum College remains a beacon of opportunity for our students thanks to the dedication and generosity of alumni and friends. We cannot overstate the real difference your financial support means to our ability to offer top quality academic programs, an exciting student life experience, and the financial aid necessary to help students attend Ferrum. As we move forward into this new academic and fiscal year, we thank you for selfless giving, and we are uplifted by your willingness to live Not Self, But Others.

Dr. Lee King
Vice President of Institutional Advancement

“The heart of the giver makes the gift dear and precious.”
-Martin Luther
The size and type of gift you make to Ferrum College reflects your goals and situation. The simplest way to make a gift is by cash or credit card. If you itemize your federal income tax return, outright gifts are deductible up to 50 percent of your adjusted gross income in most cases. Ferrum is also able to accept marketable securities such as stocks and bonds. The College may accept personal property and real estate if it supports the College's mission and meets certain criteria.

Many donors find that a planned gift is an inviting option. While the gift to the College is deferred, the donor takes an action as part of estate planning to provide for this gift at a later time, usually after death. If the action results in an irrevocable transfer, a partial tax deduction is possible.

Heather's hard work and patience are exhibited in the workload she has chosen for herself. Heather has one year left at Ferrum to finish up her double major in Russian and Political Science. While here at Ferrum, she has worked to become very involved in organizations both on and off campus. Heather served as the Russian Club president and has been a part of the Orientation Team and the Political Science Association. She even spent a summer as an intern for the CIA in a clerical position that required special security clearance. As she looks ahead to the future, Heather believes that she would enjoy a career working with the government somewhere overseas. Whatever she does, Heather Watkins is sure to be successful.

When you support Ferrum College, you are supporting students like Heather. Your gifts to the Ferrum Fund help to provide additional scholarships and research opportunities for Ferrum students. Your endorsement is also a favorable determinant for outside corporations and foundations when considering whether to fund grant requests from the College.

What a difference one gift can make! For more information about the Ferrum Fund, contact Beth Stewart at (540) 365-4310 or check out the new online giving option at www.ferrum.edu

Planned gifts include:
- **Bequests** - naming Ferrum in your will
- **Retirement Plans** - naming Ferrum as a beneficiary
- **Life Insurance** - naming Ferrum as a beneficiary
- **Charitable Gift Annuities** - transferring assets to Ferrum in exchange for a fixed income to yourself
- **Charitable Remainder Trusts** - transferring assets to a trustee to provide income to you for life, with the remainder balance coming to Ferrum at your death
- **Charitable Lead Trusts** - transferring assets to a trustee to provide income to Ferrum for a fixed period of time, then reverting back to you or other beneficiaries

The best plan for you depends on your personal circumstances. Your legal or tax advisor should be consulted during the decision-making process. For additional information, contact Ferrum's development office at 540-365-4221.
HONOR ROLL OF DONORS
July 1, 2003 - June 30, 2004

Ferrum Celebrates the Inaugural Year of The Arthur Society

Through his extraordinary leadership and vision, the Reverend Dr. C. Ralph Arthur left an indelible imprint on Ferrum College during his years as president, from 1954 to 1970. His legacy continues today and is seen across campus in Ferrum’s beautiful facilities and financial strength. A prolific fundraiser, Dr. Arthur understood that Ferrum’s ultimate success was dependent upon support received from alumni and friends of the institution.

To honor Dr. Arthur and encourage greater support for the College, Ferrum created an exclusive giving club known as The Arthur Society in 2003. Alumni, friends, businesses, and others may become members of The Arthur Society with annual gifts of at least $1,000 to the Ferrum Fund.

Completing its first year, The Arthur Society boasts 39 members. The group celebrated in the Magnolia Room of Ferrum College with Dr. Jennifer Braaten on September 7, 2004. Mrs. Mary P. Arthur, widow of Dr. Arthur, and all four of their children were delighted to be named as inaugural members and be featured in the festivities.

The Ferrum Fund is the backbone of the monetary support for the College. Unrestricted gifts to the Ferrum Fund support student financial aid, our stellar academic programs, and many other costs associated with operating the College.

We encourage you to consider joining this special group and significantly supporting Ferrum College. Gifts can be made at once or pledged and paid over the course of Ferrum’s fiscal year, July 1 to June 30. For more information, please contact the Ferrum Fund office at 540-365-4310.

ARTHUR SOCIETY
A Society of Visionary Leaders

Ferrum College welcomes the inaugural members of the Arthur Society, named after the Reverend Dr. C. Ralph Arthur for his legacy of fundraising and building as Ferrum’s seventh president. Each year (July 1 to June 30), the Arthur Society will honor alumni and friends who give at least $1,000 to the Ferrum Fund.

Mr. and Mrs. William H. Aiken, Jr. ‘60
Mr. Roger Anglin and Mrs. Sue Thomas Anglin ‘65
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas C. Arthur
Mr. Parker A. Arthur
Mr. C. Ralph Arthur, Jr., and Mrs. Sarah Shively Arthur ’68
Mrs. C. Ralph (Mary P.) Arthur, Sr.
Beckett Charitable Foundation
Mrs. Marie Glasener Black
Mr. Richard W. Blackburn
Dr. and Mrs. Jerry M. Boone
Dr. Jennifer L. Braaten
Mr. William W. Burnett ’46 and Mrs. Irene Hatcher Burnett ’50
Mr. and Mrs. Troy H. Carver and Mr. Allen Carver ’63
Mr. Michael T. Christian ’63
Mr. Pete Clements ’77
Mrs. Charlotte T. Cooley
Mr. and Mrs. W. Lynwood Craig
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<td>Class of 1930 (20%)</td>
<td>Mrs. Ruby Martin Skinnell</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class of 1932 (33%)</td>
<td>Mrs. Daphne Bousman Dudley</td>
<td>Mrs. Ruby Ingram King</td>
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<td>Class of 1934 (20%)</td>
<td>Col. William L. Finney</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class of 1936 (25%)</td>
<td>Mrs. Mildred Simmons Booth</td>
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<td>Class of 1938 (43%)</td>
<td>Mrs. Vieve Snead Clary</td>
<td>Capt. George W. Elliott</td>
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<td>Class of 1939 (19%)</td>
<td>Mrs. Geraldine Turner Goad</td>
<td>Mrs. Edith Ingram Greer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class of 1940 (21%)</td>
<td>Miss Gladys C. Bradshaw</td>
<td>Mrs. Ruth L. Craddock</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class of 1941 (15%)</td>
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<td>Mrs. Louise Hurt Moran</td>
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<td>Mrs. Edith Gusler Jones</td>
<td>Mr. Jesse A. Meeler</td>
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<td>Class of 1943 (33%)</td>
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<td>Mrs. Ethelyne Fulcher Daniel</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class of 1944 (26%)</td>
<td>Mrs. Lois Poland Biersch</td>
<td>Mr. Graham W. Clayton</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class of 1945 (48%)</td>
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<td>Mrs. Barbara Reedy Booker</td>
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<td>Class of 1946 (28%)</td>
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<td>Mr. Bill N. Hahn</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class of 1948 (24%)</td>
<td>Ms. Jody Adams</td>
<td>*Mr. Doug McCall</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class of 1949 (55%)</td>
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<td>Mrs. Margaret White Collums</td>
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<td>Class of 1953 (24%)</td>
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<td>Class of 1957 (40%)</td>
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HONOR ROLL OF DONORS

July 1, 2003 - June 30, 2004

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A Society of Loyal Friends

Through the Ruth Society, Furman recognizes those most faithful friends who have made gifts to the College every year (July 1 to June 30) for the last ten years or longer.

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Mr. and Mrs. Roddy Moore
Mrs. Joyce Johnson Moorman ’65
Ms. Betty M. Mullins
Nearly 60 members of the Ruth Society came out for fellowship, lunch, and football on September 11, 2004. Several members in attendance were recognized for making gifts each year for twenty or more years: Jim Bier, Bruce ’66 and Cindy Griffith, Jud Mason ’67, Doug ’42 and Phyllis Newman, Edith Signon ’46, and Bobby ’70 and Glenda ’69 Thompson.

The Ruth Society was created in the early 90s, named for the biblical Ruth who expressed loyalty to her mother-in-law, Naomi. This past fiscal year, Ferrum had 376 loyal donors who had made gifts to Ferrum every year for at least ten years.

Boldface denotes new members in 2003-04.
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Mr. Clark F. Childers
Mr. Tobe M. Clark
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Mr. Elmer L. Glover
Mr. Roger S. Gulick
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A Society of Legacy Builders
The purpose of the Beckham Society is to recognize alumni and friends who have made Ferrum College a beneficiary of a deferred gift through their wills, trusts, life insurance policies, gift annuities, or other deferred gift arrangements. The Beckham Society is named in memory of Ferrum’s first president, Dr. Benjamin Beckham.

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Ferrum and Valley Metro to Begin Bus Service to Rocky Mount, Roanoke

This fall Ferrum College and Valley Metro began regular bus service to the Rocky Mount and Roanoke areas for Ferrum College students, faculty and staff as well as any interested public riders. The bus service runs on Fridays from 5:00pm to 1:00am and on Saturdays from 1:00pm to 1:00am. Children under the age of 12 may not ride unaccompanied. This service is offered free to the public due to the contributions of Ferrum College, the Franklin County Board of Supervisors, and the Rocky Mount Town Council.

The Ferrum Express will begin its route at the Ferrum College campus in front of the lake and Stanley Library Annex and continue to Rocky Mount, where it will make stops in the downtown market area, at the Eagle Cinema movie theater and Wal-Mart. From Rocky Mount the bus will travel to the bus depot near the Roanoke Market and begin its journey back to Ferrum College. These particular stops allow Ferrum College students transportation and opportunity to visit businesses and entertainment opportunities in Rocky Mount as well as Roanoke, where they can connect with other bus programs to visit local colleges, the airport and more. Roanoke citizens can also take the Ferrum Express to visit shops in the Franklin County area. There are signs at each location the bus stops with the Ferrum Express logo on them as well as Valley Metro’s contact information.

FERRUM FUDGE!
Available Now!

This fall Ferrum College debuted the gourmet treat, Ferrum Fudge! Our executive chef, Bo Bernard (whose specialty just happens to be amazing desserts) came up with a fantastic recipe. Dean Browell, Director of PR, and Jeff Gring, Director of Food and Auxiliary Services, designed a great black and gold collectible candy tin. Ferrum Fudge will be available on a limited basis for mail orders through the holidays. What a sweet gift to send to all your favorite Ferrum friends and alums! The fudge must be ordered by no later than December 10, for shipping on December 17 (the last date that the post office will guarantee delivery for Christmas). The price will be $7.25+ shipping, including the “collectible” Ferrum tin! The phone number for ordering is 540-365-4453, or for email orders bbernard@ferrum.edu. Remember, “Not Self, But Others!”
ALUMNI CALENDAR OF EVENTS

The Alumni and Family Services Office invites all alumni to participate in Alumni Chapter gatherings and all athletic functions on campus. Chapter meetings are an informal way of getting reacquainted with old friends and networking with alumni in your area. If you would like information on forming a chapter in your area, please contact the Alumni Office at (540) 365-4216 or email alumni@ferrum.edu.

January
*Roanoke, VA Chapter Event- Location and Time TBA

February
Franklin County, VA Chapter Event- Location and Time TBA
Washington, DC Chapter Event- Location and Time TBA
Richmond, VA Chapter Event- Location and Time TBA
Staunton, VA Chapter Event- Location and Time TBA

Sunday, February 6th
Southside Area, Chapter Event- Dr. Braaten will be speaking at Stuart United Methodist Church at 11:00 am with a lunch to follow at El Rancho.

March
Lynchburg Chapter Event, Location and Time TBA

April
Saturday, April 9th
Danville, South Boston Chapter Event, Four Oakes Restaurant, 1:00 pm

Saturday, April 17th
Richmond Chapter Event, Strawberry Hill Race

May
Saturday, May 7th
Graduation, Ferrum College

Friday-Sunday, May 13-15th
Alumni Weekend, Ferrum College

Friday-Saturday, May 20-22nd
Football Reunion with Hank Norton
For more information, please contact the Alumni Office at alumni@ferrum.edu or Athletic Director, Abe Naff, at anaff@ferrum.edu.

June
Franklin County, VA Chapter Event- Location and Time TBA
Washington, DC Chapter Event- Location and Time TBA
Richmond, VA Chapter Event- Location and Time TBA
Staunton, VA Chapter Event- Location and Time TBA
Lynchburg, VA Chapter Event- Location and Time TBA

*Monthly meetings for the Roanoke Chapter take place on the third Tuesday of the every month. We will add dates to the calendar weekly. Please refer to the Alumni Calendar at www.ferrum.edu/alumni/alumnical.htm for more information.