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### Latest News:

## The Write Stuff

### BC Student Makes A Name For Himself As A Blog Author, Cruise Ship Connoisseur

Posted: September 2, 2011  
By EMILY SHARRER

HARRISONBURG — After going on a cruise with his mom when he was 11 years old, Nahshon Ford, a Bridgewater College sophomore, has not been able to stop sailing the high seas.

“Ever since I got off that ship, I was hooked,” said Ford, 19, who has since gone on 22 cruises and made a name for himself in the world of cruise blogging.

Over the past year, Ford has detailed his adventures on cruise ships on a blog called “The Ocean Escape.”

Since being launched in June 2010, the site has had more than 10,600 visitors and gotten Ford interviews with ship captains, crew members, special tours and top-of-the-line service on such leading liners as Disney Wonder and Carnival Cruise Lines.

“The cruise lines [are] very instrumental in making sure I’m comfortable,” said Ford, who says he’s been recognized by his readers on cruises. “I just naturally garner these special privileges because of my contributions over the years to the different cruise lines.”

#### The Blog

Ford — known to his readers as Cruiseman 3000 — gives firsthand accounts of his trips, reviews cruise lines and gives general information and tips about cruising.



*Bridgewater College sophomore Nahshon Ford, 19, has made a name for himself in the cruise ship industry. His travel blog, “The Ocean Escape,” offers personal accounts of his trips, reviews and tips about sailing the high seas. (Photo by Michael Reilly / DN-R)*

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He also publicizes his ocean adventures via social media sites Twitter and Facebook, answering questions for new cruisers using his own lingo, such as “cruisemazing” and “cruisetacular.”

Ford has 261 “likes” on Facebook, more than 8,000 views on YouTube, more than 900 Twitter followers and runs a blog radio site.

“‘The Ocean Escape,’ it’s just been a dream. Something I long to do is share my passion with the masses,” said Ford, who wants to become a cruise director.

#### Good For Degree

A communication major at Bridgewater, Ford says getting his hands into all aspects of social media has also been beneficial for his coursework.

“It’s just a reinforcement of what I’m already doing,” he said about his classes. “I’ve been able to interact with so many people, different cruise lines, travel agencies, I’m getting that communication aspect of it. In class, I can make a reference to something that I’m doing or have done.”

Up next for Ford is a book about cruising, which he says will be the book version of his blog.

“It’s pretty much a synopsis of my experiences, cruise line reviews [and] breaking down the cruise line industry,” said Ford, whose ultimate goal is to turn others on to cruising and be a positive source of information. “It can be pretty overwhelming when there are [so many cruise lines] out there and you’ve never been and you don’t know who to talk to.”

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