

REMEMBERING THE TITANS

Ferguson Junior High 2001-2015



When the Ferguson Junior High students were released from school at noon on June 5, 2015, most were probably excited to start summer break. But for many of the teachers, it was a sad day. School is out for good.

Ferguson Junior High is now closed.

The brick junior high on Green Oaks Boulevard opened in 2001, taking the name of a previous K-12 school in Arlington. Short but successful, Ferguson Junior High's history is worth celebrating. It's worth celebrating because of the people – the teachers, staff and students – who built Ferguson into the bright light that it was for 14 years. The students and faculty cultivated a school with a strong spirit and familial culture and together achieved great success on all levels, from academics to athletics.

It might seem strange for such a beautiful, successful school to close its doors. But after conducting a districtwide facilities analysis, the AISD realized it was overcapacity at the junior high level and made the difficult decision to close Ferguson, along with Hutcheson Junior High. Though it was a decision made for the long-term good of the district, closing a school is never easy.



Next school year Ferguson students and teachers will consolidate with Ousley Junior High, which is only 1.6 miles away. The building is nearly identical to Ferguson in terms of design, except that it is much larger, with plenty of space to welcome the Ferguson students.

Closing Ferguson is undoubtedly difficult, but the prospects for the consolidated junior high are impossible to ignore. Lora Thurston, the principal for the consolidated school, explained that both junior highs are very talented academically – with excellent teachers – and athletically. She is excited to combine and capitalize on the strengths of each. “This is going to be a dream campus,” she said. “This is going to be a very successful large campus.”

The Ferguson building, which first opened in 2001, has been renamed Ferguson Education Center and will become the new home for two of the AISD's alternative schools, Newcomer Center and Venture High School. It is a great opportunity for the two schools to move into a newer, more spacious building and be able to leverage common resources.

While the district's focus is on the present and future, it also values its history. And Ferguson's story and example need to be remembered.

To tell part of that story, short profiles of several Ferguson staff are below, followed by several thoughts, memories and blog posts from a few others.



DAVID TAPIA - *first principal*

When David Tapia said, "Ferguson is definitely going to be a part of me all of my life," he meant it literally. The Ferguson Titan shield is tattooed on his leg.

Tapia was the first Ferguson Titan, selected to be the first principal for the new junior high. Because he was young, had only been in the district four years and only had a year and a half of administration experience, he was surprised when he got the job. But he jumped in with both feet.

A lot of the school planning fell on Tapia, from school design to important details like choosing the school colors and mascot. A Chicago Bears fan, Tapia chose navy blue and orange for the colors. For the mascot, he visited the elementary feeder schools and let the future Ferguson students vote. The movie "Remember the Titans" was extremely popular at the time and the students nearly unanimously selected Titans as the mascot.

On the first day of school in 2001, Tapia recalled, he arrived at 4 a.m. and promptly locked himself out of the building. Despite the inauspicious start, it was the beginning of something special.

"I didn't know what I was doing," Tapia conceded about starting and running a brand new school. But that didn't slow him down. "The model that we built here ... was camaraderie," he said. "We built it based on one thing – I hired people that cared about kids. All I wanted to know was do you have the ability to reach kids." He sought to hire great teachers and then let them do their thing. "Teachers knew that I had their back."



David Tapia (left) with other former Ferguson principals Melissa Haubrich, Lora Thurston and Ben Bholan.

The first year was a challenge. The school needed to establish an identity and culture. But the entire eighth-grade class comprised transfers from eleven other junior highs. It was common to see them

wearing T-shirts from their different schools and congregating in clicks. “We had to bust that up,” Tapia said. “Our challenge was how to get all the eighth graders to become one school.”



Namesake J. C.
Ferguson

Ferguson staff placed a big emphasis on school pride and community and Tapia fostered unity through competition against other schools. “I’m very competitive,” he said. “Everything was a competition, from test scores to sports teams... If we were competing, I was out there talking smack.” Tapia would attend road games for athletic events and cheer loudly with the parents. “My excitement bled over.” It became contagious and the kids loved it. “We were the school to beat in the spelling bee,” he added.

It worked. Tapia recalled an “amazing transformation right in front of our faces.” The students began to come together. They wore their old junior high T-shirts less and became Titans. A “fierce loyalty” developed among students and teachers alike as a spirit of unity took permanent hold of the school.

“I was having the most fun ever,” Tapia said about those early years. He remains extremely proud of what he and his team built together at Ferguson. And seeing it close hurts. “It tears me up a little bit because this place has been a beacon that the district looked to as a role model.”

After eight years at Ferguson, the school was thriving. Tapia was content to stay, but was asked by the AISD superintendent to take on a new challenge as principal at Hutheson Junior High. And so he reluctantly left the school, with a Titan tattoo on his leg and an even bigger one on his heart.

STEVE DUNN - *assistant principal*

David Tapia’s second hire as Ferguson principal was his assistant principal Steve Dunn. “That guy is the nuts and bolts and the glue that keeps this place together,” Tapia said of Dunn, “and he always has been.” Lora Thurston, the last principal at Ferguson, had similar praise, describing Dunn as the “rock” of the school.

Dunn’s first stint with the AISD was from 1972-1979 at Nichols Junior High when it was still on Cooper Street. He returned to the district in 1994 and was at Arlington High School when he was hired in 2001 to help start Ferguson Junior High.

Dunn wears his affection and pride for Ferguson on his sleeve, and his sleeve usually belongs to a Ferguson shirt. Principal Thurston joked that he will have to get a whole new wardrobe next year when he moves to Ousley Junior High because all of his clothes say Ferguson.

If you ask Dunn to talk about his Ferguson career, he talks about the teachers. He is extremely proud of the great teachers and principals they had throughout the years, including many who went on to higher jobs in the district. “Ferguson has had a great, wonderful history,” and that is because of the “wonderful group of people that worked here.” Their devotion was always to the students. “The teachers have poured out their lives for these kids,” he said.

He also singled out the school counselors, like Ella Starnes and Margaret Farquhar, who did so much to help not only the kids, but the staff as well. “We’ve all worked hard and had that family atmosphere,” he said.

Dunn isn't shy about trumpeting the success of their school. "We always held our own in academics," and always did well in STAAR testing. There were a couple years where "we knocked it out of the park in history," he said "We've held our standards high and we are working hard to make sure our students are successful." And it's not just in academics that the students excelled. The fine arts and music programs were extremely strong and successful. And Dunn, who was a football coach earlier in his career, can rattle off Ferguson athletic achievements, like city championships in football, girls basketball and cross country.

"We've had some good memories here," he reminisced. Many of them involve Dunn doing whatever it took to motivate the students. One year he promised to kiss a pig if they did well on testing. They did, so he kissed the pig. Other years he let himself be the target in the dunking booth at school carnivals and really enjoyed refereeing faculty-student basketball games.

He admitted that closing Ferguson will be sad for a time, but also said, "I don't want to think about it too much because our focus is on these kids being successful."



Steve Dunn addresses the teachers at the final faculty lunch on the last day of school.

That was Dunn's focus for 14 years at Ferguson and he will take it with him to Ousley. "We're all in this together for the good of these kids that we work with," he declared at the teacher luncheon on the last day of school.

MERCEDES DOWNING - *head custodian*

The Ferguson building can easily be mistaken as brand new. It is impeccably clean and in great shape.

The force behind this cleanliness is Mercedes Downing, Ferguson's head custodian, a small woman with a big smile and contagious laugh. Like Tapia and Dunn, she started at Ferguson when it opened in 2001 and loves it. "I feel like it's my home over here. It's my school," she said. "I have two drawers full of Ferguson shirts," she added.

Extremely well liked, Downing is part of the school's fabric. "I can't say enough about Mercedes," said Dunn. Tapia feels similarly and even asked her to come with him when he left Ferguson for Hutcheson. But she preferred to stay put.

Keeping a junior high clean, especially as clean as Ferguson is, was no easy task. But Downing said it was a team effort. The teachers played a big role, as did the students. Keeping the school nice helped create a culture of cleanliness and respect for the facility that the students embraced.

Downing explained that they all spent so many hours at the school that it essentially became a home. “You don’t want someone coming into your messy house.” Take pride, she insisted. “You keep it clean no matter how old it is.” Even the bathrooms don’t smell, she pointed out proudly.

Downing also helped open Ashworth Elementary and spent five years there as the head custodian before she found a home at Ferguson. She teared up as she talked about the teachers moving on to Ousley. “We have good teachers ... I’m going to miss my teachers.”

“Ferguson is a lucky school,” Downing claimed. She explained that so many staff, from principals to custodians, left for higher jobs in the district. It couldn’t have all been luck though. She clearly did a great job training her custodial staff because five assistants went on to head custodial positions.

“But I’m still here!” she laughed. “Honestly, I love my job.”



Mercedes Downing (far right) with other Ferguson staff who worked at the school for all 14 years. From left to right: Mary Cliborn, Terri Steiman, Steve Dunn and Kara Dennick.

HARRISON MCCOY - teacher

Dr. Harrison McCoy, an AVID teacher, wasn’t at Ferguson when it opened, but he was there for the final year, or “The Final Campaign,” as fellow teacher Cam Hill called it. Education is a second career for McCoy and his 10 years at Ferguson helped him flourish as a teacher. He capped his final campaign at the junior high by winning teacher of the year.

“The principals allowed me to take risks in the classroom,” he explained. I felt like I had freedom to get out of the box.” One example was when his class was reading John Steinbeck’s “Red Pony.” McCoy brought a red mustang to campus to help bring the book alive. That kind of environment made Ferguson a really enjoyable place to work, he said.

More than anything, he enjoyed the students. This year, he had one student who is the youngest of four children – and McCoy had taught them all! Being at the school long enough to experience that kind of thing meant a great deal to McCoy. (That fourth sibling, Emily W., wrote a blog about Ferguson that is included at the end of this article.)

It was those kinds of experiences, along with the sense of family and community, that made it really difficult for McCoy and the other teachers when they found out Ferguson would be closed. “The process of closing was “tougher than we thought” and “tested the culture of the school.”

To help with the emotional transition, McCoy started a blog at the beginning of the school year,

intended to be a positive voice for reflecting on the past and looking ahead to the future. The plan was for 180 different people – faculty, staff and students – to participate, with each to blog one day of the school year.

McCoy kicked off the final campaign. weebly.com on day one of the 2014-15 school year. Many faculty and students wrote heartfelt posts about lessons learned and fond memories at their junior high. But on day 60, McCoy decided it was time for one final post. The blog had served its purpose and, as McCoy explained, it was time to “turn toward the future.” He wrote in the final two paragraphs of the final post:



Dr. McCoy with Principal Thurston at the final faculty lunch.

“This blog was a noble idea with the best of intentions, and I choose to believe that it served a good purpose for many people for a shorter than expected time. It is time, however, to move on because truthfully, the final campaign is over – whether we want it to be or whether we are ready for it to be over or not. That’s just the way things go sometimes.

So, lift your coffee cups (or whatever beverage you have in mind) in a toast to a great school, an even greater faculty, and to all of the students we have sent out into the world. Let’s also toast to all of the truly amazing things we will do in the future, because greater things yet will be done than

we have imagined possible. We are a part of that as surely as we are part of our past. God is not through with any of us.”

MARY CLIBORN - teacher

UIL plaques and trophies filled the Ferguson orchestra room – before they were all packed up to move to Ousley. “I don’t even know how many there are,” said Mary Cliborn, the school’s orchestra director since it opened in 2001.

The awards and memorabilia that populated the orchestra room and Cliborn’s office are a testament to the strength of the music program she built. And stuffed animals given to her by students, placed alongside their photos, speak to the impact the program – and Cliborn – has had on so many young lives.

Cliborn, a graduate of the University of Texas at Arlington and Texas Christian University, has worked for the AISD for 20 years. She also teaches music at Fitzgerald Elementary, one of Ferguson’s feeder schools. What she built at Ferguson was truly special.

Ferguson kids are set apart from others, she explained. By the time they moved on to high school, they had received a holistic music education – which included instruction in impeccable technique – that enabled them to excel. The abundance of UIL awards – superior ratings, first divisions and sweepstakes wins – served as proof. But more important than the music training and the awards, the

students also received training for life.

There is a belief that orchestra always gets the best kids. But Cliborn doesn't agree. It is the music program, she insists, that makes them the best kids. "We make them into the kids they are," she said. The skills they develop in music, like responsibility and discipline, translate to other area of life. The music program also offers a home and a sense of community. The orchestra room is where many kids feel comfortable and accepted, she explained.

Many of those kids would come back to visit even after they'd left Ferguson. Several have gone on to music careers and many have achieved success, not just in music, but in all areas of life. Those visits and running into former students in the grocery store or restaurants mean a lot. "I wouldn't trade that kind of stuff for the world." Teaching and loving these kids is what drives Cliborn. "I enjoy it so much. I can't even imagine doing anything else."

Recalling the students and the memories evoke strong emotions and tears. "It would take a really long time to share everything." And she's not the only one in her family sad about Ferguson closing. "My kids grew up here," she said about her own children. They grew up going to Ferguson concerts and hanging out in their mother's office. Ferguson was "my home away from home."

The Ferguson Orchestra performed a grand finale on May 26 to honor their school. The seventh grade and eighth grade orchestras each performed several songs, directed by Cliborn. Then, for the concert's final two pieces, the two grades combined and were joined by about forty alumni musicians of the Ferguson Orchestra dating back to 2004.

The 120 musicians who squeezed onto the stage included Victor Musasia, a Ferguson alumnus and current student at the University of North Texas. He composed the final piece, "Titan's Last Stand," to honor the legacy of his junior high.

When Musasia was in eighth grade, the orchestra performed a piece he had written called "Dance (GTG)." Victor and Cliborn actually switched places for the performance – Victor conducted and Mrs. Cliborn played cello. The piece was extremely well received and continued to be played regularly by Ferguson musicians long after he left for high school.

For Musasia, the music program opened doors and set him on his career path. "I honestly think I wouldn't be where I am today if it wasn't for Mrs. Cliborn and my choir director, Mr. Cooley," Victor said. Cliborn was the one who encouraged him to write music and played his first piece in seventh grade. Today Victor is a straight-A college student majoring in computer science with a minor in music. He is planning for a career in music software development, while writing film scores on the side.



Mary Cliborn with former student Victor Musasia after the final Ferguson Orchestra concert.

“We all really loved orchestra,” Musasia said about his time at Ferguson. “Mrs. Cliborn was an amazing teacher and we really just appreciated her. ... In eighth grade we collected money and bought her her own electric violin that everyone in orchestra signed. That was one of the pinnacle moments.”



Trica Alford's T-shirt quilt is unfurled at Ferguson Orchestra's final concert.

The grand finale concert also included a special presentation. Tricia Alford, an AISD employee and parent of AISD students, made a quilt out of all the Ferguson orchestra T-shirts dating back to 2001, and her daughter presented it to Cliborn at the concert.

Two of Alford's children were students of Cliborn's at Fitzgerald Elementary and then her son was in the Ferguson Orchestra as a seventh grader. They all love Mrs. Cliborn, Alford said. “She's so encouraging with the kids. She motivates them and is just a positive influence... in more than just music.”

Alford knew she wanted to give a gift to Cliborn at the end of the year, and when she saw the Ferguson Orchestra T-shirts in the orchestra room, she knew what that gift would be. “I just thought that [the Ferguson T-shirt quilt] would be something special for her to have.”

The quilt and concert served as a fitting tribute to Cliborn, the Ferguson Orchestra and Ferguson Junior High. Though the school is now closed, teachers like Cliborn and students like Musasia have ensured a powerful and enduring legacy. And Cliborn, though sad to say goodbye to Ferguson, will continue to impact students at Ousley Junior High starting in August. “My life is about to change drastically,” she said. “I will still teach orchestra somewhere and I will still make a difference – just not here.”

WE ALL LOVE FERGUSON

After school let out on Friday, June 5 for the last time, the faculty gathered for their final lunch. They were joined by three of Ferguson's four former principals, David Tapia, Dr. Melissa Haubrich and Dr. Ben Bholan.

Principal Thurston thanked the teachers for all they had done to not only ensure an excellent school year, but also pack up and prepare to move to Ousley. “We are in excellent shape,” she said.

The other former principals took turns sharing memories and heaping praise on the incredible teachers they had. “Ferguson was high performing when I got here,” Haubrich said, “but it was never good enough for you guys.” She went on to describe the teachers as a family,



Teacher Mary Iverson with former principal David Tapia.

happy and go-getters who rose to meet any challenge.

Tapia then recognized one teacher in particular, Audrey Iverson, who was with him in 2001 when they started Ferguson. Iverson is now retiring and Tapia and Thurston presented her with a Titans quilt.

An emotional day, social studies teacher Cam Hill lightened the mood but tapped into everyone's feelings when he sang a song he wrote to the tune of Adam Sandler's Chanukah Song. The song included lines like, "It's time to celebrate Ferguson," along with a list of Titans, "just like you and me." And it concluded with what everyone felt: "We all really really love Ferguson."



A few more thoughts from Ferguson Titans...

Ben Bholan - former principal

What I remember the most about Ferguson is the family atmosphere and the support that the staff provides for students and each other. My fondest memory is when we had a "yellow out" to promote childhood cancer awareness. This was particularly meaningful to me as I had recently lost a niece to bone cancer at the age of 10. The staff and students really rallied behind the cause and sported a lot of yellow. One of the teachers even had her students make yellow shirts out of butcher paper if they didn't wear yellow to school. It was an awesome feeling to be part of such a great school and community!

Steve Simpson - former teacher

I have nothing but fond memories of my time as a history teacher at Ferguson Junior High School. I arrived at Ferguson in 2001 and, as a brand-new teacher, helped open the school along with an energetic and skilled group of educators. For the next eight years, I had the pleasure of working with hard-working and inspiring students who accepted the opportunity and challenge to expand and deepen their understanding of history by taking a critical approach to its examination. I think Ferguson is special because of its diversity, engaged parents and community, and committed staff and administration. I could not have been more fortunate to have worked there and I am extremely grateful for the time I spent with my students from whom I learned a great deal. Ferguson Junior High will be missed, but the learning and successes achieved within its walls continue to have a lasting impact on all who have been lucky enough to call themselves Titans.

Terri Steinman - teacher

My time at FJH will be remembered as a home with a very supportive family. Not only were we a campus that experienced a merry go round of administrators, we experienced "life" together. There were courtships, marriages, renewal of vows, divorces, babies born, the death of babies and older children, parents, and spouses. The campus stuck together and helped each other out. We lifted each other up when we needed to.

My best metaphor for Ferguson would be comparing us to "The Little Train that Could." We were a small school that worked well together and our focus was for the students. We did what had to be done. No matter how hard the struggle was we managed to keep on trying until we got it done. We

achieved Recognized status several times, and we were named one of the best junior highs in the state of Texas two years in a row. We won district championships in football, basketball, volleyball and track. We were the only junior high in the Arlington ISD to receive seven of seven distinctions given by the State of Texas last year. Many of those years it was without a permanent leader in the principal's position. And this was all done in the short time span of fourteen years.

Many tears have been spilt over this decision to consolidate with another campus. We worry about our students and their being placed on a larger campus. We worry over things being different. But I know that the Ferguson Family will do their best and continue to "Lead By Example."

Posts from the "The Final Campaign" blog...

DAY 2 – by Jerod Zahn, principal

Locker consultant

My 9-year old constantly asks me what I do all day at work as a principal. That answer varies quite a bit from day to day. At the start of a new school year, it is pretty easy to answer though.

With nine passing periods during the day and around 250 new seventh graders trying to learn how to open combination locks, I become a personal locker consultant. Learning to open a combination lock is definitely an acquired skill. It is also a skill that is more difficult when you have a tardy bell looming and you do not even know where your next classroom is located. The new seventh graders put themselves under a lot of pressure in this situation.



As a locker consultant, the time I get to spend with each student is not really about opening the locker. This is a chance where I, as a building principal, get to interact with our new students, and I can begin to try and build relationships with them. It is an opportunity to encourage the students and to help them get comfortable in the new world that they have been thrust into.

If I did a good job today, some of those students will be able to open their lockers by themselves tomorrow. They will not need the locker consultant anymore. Hopefully, though, the students had an opportunity to talk to their new principal and were met with a smile and support in the face of a new and sometimes intimidating junior high world.

DAY 3 – by Ella Starnes, seventh-grade counselor

From the counselor's perspective

Junior High counseling is an EVER changing job, sometimes from hour to hour. Never Boring!!!

This year I have enrolled new students from 21 other Arlington schools, charter schools, private schools, other districts and from other states.

I have conferenced with parents, conferenced with students, calmed down anxious parents as well as anxious students, changed schedules, given out supplies, connected families with outside agencies, carried lunch trays, unlocked many lockers, and helped dry some tears.

Whose tears? Don't ask. Ha!!

Maybe it's the variety in counseling junior high students that keeps me coming back.

Year 40, here I go!!!!

DAY 4 – Kara Dennick, E2020 lab director

F is for Family

Ferguson is not only a school, a job, but it is a home to me. I came to this school 14 years ago and found a new family. Like any family, people move on to other jobs and journeys ... students come and go, but this journey has been the greatest I have ever taken. The support I get from the staff and the friendships I have made will last a lifetime. As a former AVID teacher, I have watched many students succeed through different programs, and AVID has become an amazing tool for our students that helps lead them the way to success. Dr. McCoy has taken what we started and the AVID program has exploded into something I only dreamed it would be. As I wear my college shirt today, I think of my AVID "babies" that graduated last year and hope that they will keep their passion alive in college and continue to do great and exceptional things.

DAY 13 – by Emily W., eighth-grade student

It's so exciting to see the school spirit multiply this year! I'm so blessed to have been a part of this wonderful Titan family, I've never been to or heard of a school with as much pride as Ferguson does. We are so much more than a school, we are dedicated to making ourselves better, physically and mentally.

I've loved every moment of being a Titan and it's so sad that my class is the last graduating class of Ferguson JH. We should all carry our heads high as we leave Ferguson, our school is a great school, and I'm so excited for the rest of the year. I've learned so much more than just academics here at Ferguson, and I am so thankful for that. This year is already speeding by, and I want to treasure every day yet to come.

Thank you to all the teachers that have contributed to my Ferguson journey! You all truly have been an amazing impact on my life!

DAY 16 – by Jay Crumley, teacher, coach

I'm gonna cry. I'm 6'2", 245. I pride myself on being tough and pushing myself and those around me to be their best. I can give directions at 300 yards. I'm the one the kids don't want to be weak in front of. But I'm gonna cry.

I almost did the other week when one of my old kids came back nearly every day to talk about how much he misses football and how much he learned from his two years here. I almost did the other day when a girl came up and asked if I remembered her brother. She told me he's about to graduate and go to college, though that wasn't where he was headed in 8th grade.

I don't know what I'm going to do when I don't get to hear about my old kids; when I don't see the 6'3" senior at his brother's football game. The one who throws a 95 mph fastball, but was too small in junior high to play football as hard as he did. That's what we teach for. Not for today, and who the kids are, but who they can be, and who they become.

I don't know how I'll be able to start again, without kids walking out to football practice just to tell me they passed all their classes at Seguin this six weeks, bragging that they're on JV, or telling me they're going into the Navy. Those tough days won't turn around as quick when I don't have a little brother or sister tell me how their siblings are doing. I won't be reminded of a face that was so similar a few years ago in the same desk. It'll take time to build new relationships with colleagues, meet new families and create new memories.

So I'm going to cry, and probably more than once. My only hope is to hold out until at least the spring. We have a family here. A family that cares about each other and cares about our kids, even when we can't understand why. Those are the kids, though, that are going to make me cry. The ones I don't know why I put in the effort for, but that I see all the time with a crooked smile that says, "I know what I used to be, but now I want you to know who I am."

I'm going to cry, but I think I'll be better for it.

DAY 20 – by Yohana Amaro, attendance clerk

Soon we will have to close a very special chapter of our lives. We will say goodbye to great friends and teachers; those to whom we appreciate the good moments and years we've been together. Memories will remain of what a great family we always were, filled with all types of emotions, curiosities, happiness, and overall loyalty. Ferguson is not just a work place. It has always been a home to all of us. Administrators and staff have come and gone, yet one thing is for sure: they have taken a lot of great memories with them!

I still remember the first time I came to interview for the receptionist position. Mr. Tapia already knew me since he was the one who had hired me to work at Carter with the help and a good reference from Mrs. Iverson, as she loved the way I interpreted my mom's parent meeting for my brother's behavior in school. (It wasn't a positive one either! LOL).

She said, "Wow, we could really use you here! Your translation skills are perfect, bring in your resume and I will put in a good word for you!" And he hired me! Ferguson has been a great place to work. I started as the receptionist and moved up to attendance clerk and with that I inherited "temporarily" handling of substitute teachers, but could never get rid of it. So, I eventually stopped trying...Hahaha!

I have experienced so much in the time I've worked here: lost my grandpa, my grandma, and during those times of feeling broken and lost, it was that hug, those words of appreciation that made my sorrow more bearable. Thank you all for the opportunity to be part of this amazing Ferguson family. Thank you all for always holding at heart my joys, failures, achievements and losses. I will truly miss all of you. We've always become one, no matter the circumstance. A lot of us don't know where our next stop will be, but we will continue to remain close at heart no matter what. Stay in touch, keep the memories alive and continue to be GREAT anywhere you may go. That is all, BFF TITAN FAMILY!

