



**Ferris State University**  
**TORCH**  
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**HERE'S WHAT'S INSIDE**

<p><b>FEELIN' IRISH</b>  <i>Check out an overview of St. Patrick's Day festivities in Big Rapids</i>  <b>LIFESTYLES   PAGE 6</b></p>	<p><b>SURVIVOR</b>  <i>Editor in Chief Keith Salowich writes on landing a summer job</i>  <b>OPINIONS   PAGE 14</b></p>	<p><b>FEAR THE BEARD</b>  <i>Bearded Bulldog basketball coach Andy Bronkema named GLIAC Coach of the Year</i>  <b>SPORTS   PAGE 10</b></p>
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# Family Ties



Graphic by: Sarah Massey | Production Assistant

## If transitioning to college was stressful, you are not alone

Alicia Jaimes  
 Torch Reporter

As Ferris State University freshmen began their college journey, many experienced the benefits of living at home as well as the stress it entails.

According to a 2016 survey on first year college students, 35.9 percent of college freshman maintained daily contact with their families while 19.7 percent of students returned home frequently throughout their first year.

Ferris pre-dental hygiene freshman Mackenzie Williams was part of the 19.7 percent who returned home during their first semester.

"At the beginning of the year I didn't want to be here at all," Williams said. "I did not adjust until spring semester started."

Raised in nearby Newaygo, Williams could travel home almost every Wednesday and weekend during her first semester at Ferris.

Although Williams found a way to better transition into her spring semester, her fall semester was rocky.

Being the youngest in her family, Williams watched her older siblings attend Central Michigan University. The stress of her older brother and sister teasing her for choosing a different educational path, as well as not having anyone to answer her questions about Ferris, Williams was left feeling guilty for her decision.

While Williams elected to go home week-

ly, Ferris forensic biology freshman Emily Kemp chose differently.

Hailing from Trenton, Kemp chose not to go home during her college experience unless it was for breaks.

Kemp only has one younger brother; however, being raised by a teacher and a principal she felt the stress of family obligation.

"There's definitely a lot of stress with being perfect," Kemp said. "I always had to get good grades and stay active."

Although the 2016 college survey said that 50.4 percent of students felt their family responsibilities interfered with their schooling, Ferris nursing freshman Sean Dalton said he has had an easy transition to college.

"School has been going well for me so

far," Dalton said. "It's always stressful for me, knowing that I'm the first child to go away to college, but I try and not think about it and just focus on my academics."

Being the oldest of his three siblings, Dalton said, is stressful for him. The atmosphere of dorm life, as well as a supportive family outweighed the stress Dalton originally had.

"I think my family does affect my schooling but in a good way," Dalton said. "My parents are always eager to help me with studying or miscellaneous homework assignments. They also give me positive reinforcement, building my self-esteem towards college."

Got news? Let us know.

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## NEWS

"This doesn't just affect women, it affects an entire community,"  
- Victoria Mason, see page 4 for story

Angela Graf | News Editor | grafa1@ferris.edu

# Young and crazy

## Frankie Ballard to headline 2017 Music Takes Action

Melanie Bale

Torch Reporter

Students stand divided on upcoming country artist Frankie Ballard's visit to campus for this year's Music Takes Action concert.

Annually, Ferris State's Entertainment Unlimited puts together a concert free to students. Colloquially known as Ferris Fest, past years have presented artists such as Lupe Fiasco, All Time Low and Sean Kingston.



Maria Rogers

"I most likely won't be attending the event. I think it's a great event for people that enjoy country music, but I don't really listen to country music," said Ferris public relations senior Abbey Stasik.

Typically, the concert is held outside in mid to late April, but this year's event will be held inside at the Ewigleben Sports Complex, regardless of inclement weather. The show will also be held at an earlier date—Friday, March 24.

"It's nice having it inside especially when it's so cold out, but I liked it when it was in April. It was kind of like an end of the year celebration," said Ferris hospitality management senior Maria Rogers.

This year's performers include Ballard, A Thousand Horses and student band Spike the Media.

"I love Frankie Ballard! He's a great performer," said Ferris freshman Jaclynn Tofilski.



Jaclynn Tofilski

Ballard, a Michigan native, is known for his country/rock/blues sound. His album *El Rio* has been selected by *Rolling Stone Magazine* as Best Country and Americana Albums in 2016.

It's still unknown how much Ballard was given by Ferris to perform, or why he was specifically chosen. Entertainment Unlimited was unavailable for comment.

### EVENT INFORMATION

**Location:** Ewigleben Arena  
**Date:** Friday, March 24

Doors open at 5 P.M.  
Music starts at 5:30 P.M.

Pick up your ticket at the Entertainment Unlimited office located in UC 121B



Promotional Photo

Battle Creek native and award-winning country artist Frankie Ballard will take the stage at the 2017 Music Takes Action concert.

A Thousand Horses originates from Nashville, Tennessee, with singer Michael Hobby, guitarist Bill Sacher, guitarist and singer Zach Brown and drummer Graham Deloach. Their debut album, released in 2010, launched them into their respective genre with a Southern American Rock sound. Their music video for "Smoke" was nominated for Group Video of the Year at the Country Music Awards.

Not everyone is thrilled about the choice of artist, some refusing to go entirely as a result.



John Nguyen

"I was thinking about going, until I heard it was a country singer headlining and thought, 'maybe not,'" said Ferris pre-pharmacy sophomore John Nguyen.

Spike the Media's members consist of Jordan Martin, Lauren Martin, Devin Lemrock and Ferris product design and engineering technology trans-

fer student Brendan Martin. Originally from Muskegon, the progressive rock band draws influence from bands like Radiohead and Bring Me the Horizon.

Tickets, while free, are required for entry. Students can get them from Entertainment Unlimited's office located in UC 121B near CLACS. ID is required and tickets will be limited to two per student.

Music Takes Action will be held at Ewigleben Arena Friday, March 24. Doors open at 5 p.m., and the show starts at 5:30 p.m.

# Where is the weed?

## Despite numerous reports, marijuana is often not found in residence halls

Andrea Lenhart

Torch Reporter

Since Wednesday, Feb. 1, there have been at least eight reports filed of possible marijuana use in the campus residence halls. However, when authorities arrive to investigate, there are often no illegal substances to be found.

Captain Jim Cook of the Ferris State De-

partment of Public Safety believes these situations are not related or suspicious.

"The staff in the residence hall has been trained as to what the odor of marijuana smells like. As by residence hall policy, they call us to investigate when they smell it," Cook said.

According to Cook, when people are around marijuana smoke the odor clings to their clothing and belongings.

"So when we investigate, they (residence

hall workers) might be smelling the odor in the room or on the person, if we do not find any contraband, then it's just an odor, so it is turned back over to housing to do the referral to student conduct for marijuana usage," Cook said.

According to housing staff they are only responsible for filling out a referral in these instances.

"People put themselves in situations where they are around it. There is no law

against having that smell on your person," Cook said.

"We investigate any report, we will make contact with the suspect, and each case has its own merits. If there is enough evidence, they (the officer) will go forward with criminal prosecution.

Two of these reports have come from Cramer Hall, two from Vandercook, and two from Travis, as well as one from both Clark and McNerney.

# - ON THE RECORD -

A roundup of this week's crime at Ferris State University

## Don't mind me

By Angela Graf - News Editor

### Back at it again

Feb. 23, 4:10 p.m. officers responded to a report of a hit and run in Lot 11.

### Play nice

Feb. 23, 12:01 a.m. officers investigated a disturbance at the Rock Café. The suspects were found in Lot 39 and two students were referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

### St. Stoned

Feb. 24, 2:50 a.m. officers contacted a suspicious subject at St. Paul's off of Damascus Road. The occupant was found to be in possession of marijuana and was ticketed and referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

### Domestic assault

Feb. 25, 12:10 a.m. officers observed a suspicious subject in a vehicle south of Big Rapids on Northland Drive. After contacting the subject, it was ascertained that a domestic assault had taken place and the case was turned over to the Sheriff's Department.

### Double-whammy

Feb. 25, 11:40 p.m. officers stopped a vehicle on State Street near Maple Street for driving without headlights. The passenger was found to have an outstanding warrant and was arrested and the driver was given a verbal warning.

### Bad kids

Feb. 26, 12:35 a.m. officers stopped a

vehicle on State Street south of Campus for driving erratically. Two students in the vehicle were referred to the Office of Student Conduct for alcohol violations.

### Don't mind me

Feb. 26, 1:10 a.m. officers contacted an intoxicated subject reportedly on the sidewalk near the grounds maintenance building. The subject was identified, found to be a minor in possession and was ticketed.

### Dude, let's trash that board

Feb. 26, 8:10 p.m. officers responded to a report of vandalism to a board in Vandercook Hall.

### Blocked

Feb. 28, 11:30 p.m. officers responded to a harassment complaint at an off-cam-

pus apartment. A student was receiving unwanted text messages from an unknown person and was advised on how to block the number.

### Civil war

March 1, 6 p.m. officers responded to a civil complaint between two roommates in Bond Hall.

### Slow down

March 1, 7:35 p.m. officers responded to a two-car accident on Campus Drive near Hallisy Hall.

The Ferris Department of Public Safety issued 516 tickets totaling \$8,140 between the dates of Feb. 22 and March 2.

# Free means free NEWS BRIEFS

By Angela Graf - News Editor

## Ferris is offering free residence hall housing to students who qualify during the Summer 2017 semester

Marley Tucker

Torch Reporter

As Ferris students search for a silver lining after returning from spring break, there is an opportunity for free lodging on campus during the Summer 2017 semester.

Summer housing contracts for Ferris opened Wednesday, Feb. 15, to allow students who are enrolled in six or more credit hours during the summer semester to further benefit from living on campus.

Bryan Marquardt, director of the Office of Housing and Residence Life, explained the numerous benefits for residential students who are taking classes during the summer.

"Taking summer classes, while living on campus, gives our students the best of all worlds," Marquardt said. "They still receive the same quality of education, in an atmosphere that is generally more laid back. All of the services will be there for our residential students. Plus, campus is beautiful during the summer, and the greater Big Rapids area offers numerous recreational and shopping opportunities."

Students paying for six or more credits will have access to free housing in a residency hall. This benefit also includes unlimited utilities, close proximity to academic buildings and access to The Rock Café by purchasing the Bulldog Anytime summer meal plan.

Students who are working full-time on campus, and who have signed a housing contract for the 2017-18 academic year, also qualify for the free Summer 2017 housing deal.

"I feel like it's a great opportunity for people to stay

on campus and get that college feeling. I know a lot of other universities around here that charge for you to live on campus over the summer where Ferris doesn't," said Ferris diagnostic medical sonography freshman Kaylee Zeerip.



Bryan Marquardt

According to Ferris' Housing and Resident Life webpage, the summer semester housing contract is \$2,264 for those students who don't meet either the credit or full-time on campus working requirements for the deal.

"I took summer classes last year, and it was convenient that I didn't have to search for housing. I couldn't move into my apartment until August, so it was a great relief for me and gave me the chance to focus on my studies," said Ferris welding engineering technology sophomore Cassie Machen.

Campus residential facilities open for the summer semester on Sunday, May 14. The first day of summer classes is Tuesday, May 16.

"You'll go home for a week or so in-between semesters and then will leave the weekend before fall semester starts in early August," said Taylor Helmer, front desk assistant at the Office of Housing and Residence Life. "We will have Bond and Cramer halls open during this time."

Students interested in signing a housing contract can call the Ferris Office of Housing and Residence Life at 231-591-3745 or check out their webpage for more information.

## SUMMER 2017 RESIDENCE HALL RATES

**Enrolled in 6 or more credit hours** \$0/semester

**Working full time on campus and signed housing contract for 2017-2018 academic year** \$0/semester

**All other students** \$2,264/semester

The above information was found under Summer Housing Contracting on the Housing and Residence Life page at ferris.edu.

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### Sexism in advertising

Ferris social work professor Kathryn Woods will be presenting a lecture entitled "Sexism and Gender-Based Violence in Print Advertising" as part of OMSS' 2017 Women's History Month. This lecture will target sexist issues in print advertising and will allow students to get involved with a group discussion. This event will take place at 6 p.m. Tuesday, March 21, in UC 203.

### Registration

Registration for the fall 2017 semester opens on Monday, March 20. This is for select groups only. Students are encouraged to contact their academic adviser or the Registrar's Office for more information on dates and registering. The email address for the Registrar's Office is registrar@ferris.edu.

### Torchbearer awards

The nomination forms are open for Ferris' annual Torchbearer award ceremony. The qualifications for each are as follows:

Torchbearer Award - For graduating students who will leave Ferris by Dec. 2017

Rising Star Award - For students graduating in May 2019 or Later

Outstanding Advisor Award - For RSO advisors

Five Star RSO - For any RSO wishing to be recognized as a Five Star Organization

The deadline for nominations is March 17 and forms can be found on Orgsync.

## Ferris State Torch Corrections

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# Lending a helping hand

## Campus organization collecting donations to help women in need

Andrea Lenhart

Torch Reporter

Ferris State NOW (National Organization for Women) have recently placed decorated boxes throughout campus to collect feminine products for women in need.

NOW has 500,000 contributing members and 550 chapters in all 50 states and the District of Columbia, making it the largest organization of feminist activism.

According to Ferris first year pharmacy student Patti Whiting, Ferris State's Chapter of NOW has been around for some time, but has just begun to recharge the organization.

"We're working to educate people (on campus) about women's issues and sexism," human resource management junior and president of NOW Victoria Mason said.

According to Whiting, NOW is collecting feminine hygiene products like pads, tampons, menstrual cups and feminine wipes throughout the month of March. All products will be donated to Degage Ministries in Grand Rapids.

They hope to make this an annual event every March as a part of Women's History Month.

"There are about 900 homeless people in the city (Grand Rapids) and about 300 are women, so there are 300 every month who needs these products," Ma-

son said. "Feminine products can cost anywhere between \$8 and \$20 and that might be what someone brings home in one day or the cost of food for a day. We don't think that someone should have to choose between eating or that necessity."

"Women's health and homelessness are two issues that affect everyone within a community, and it's extremely important to mobilize out efforts to help those in need around us," Whiting said.



Victoria Mason

The group developed the idea after a video shared to their Facebook page about what women in New York had to resort to

to take care of themselves. Items such as socks, old tee shirts and paper towels are often used.

"After watching that, we realized that this is something that nobody should really have to go through," Mason said.

"We're hoping individuals will donate—and both men and women. This doesn't just affect women, it affects an entire community," Mason said.

Feminine hygiene products can be dropped off in the University Rec Center, the OMSS office (FLITE 159), the CLACS office (UCB 121) and the Greek Life Office in CLACS from March 13 through 31. Monetary donations can be made as well through CLACS.

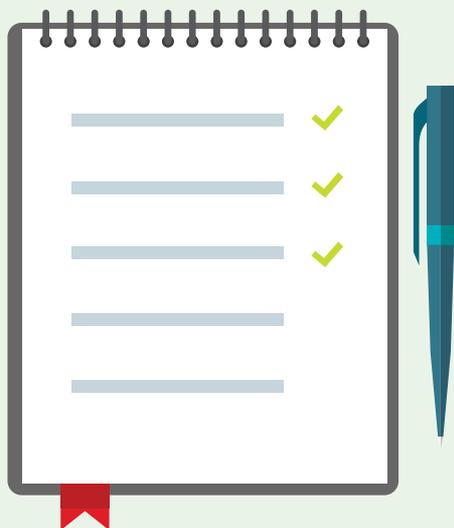


Photo by: Aubrey Kemme | Multimedia Editor

Students can donate pads, tampons, menstrual cups and feminine wipes, all of which will be given to Degage Ministries in Grand Rapids and distributed to those in need.

The **TORCH** is now hiring  
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## Publishing professors

Ferris instructors literally "write the book" on their subjects.

Harley Harrison

Torch Reporter

There is nothing worse than buying a required textbook only to find out a month later that you're never going to use it.

After much frustration with the inability to find the perfect book, some Ferris professors have taken it upon themselves to write their own textbooks.

Ferris professor J Randall Groves wrote his book, "Introduction to Popular Culture" with professor John Gray and professor Robert Quest for the Ferris popular culture class, humanities 240.

"We wrote it because of the lack of good books in the field. All the books were either graduate level stuff, heavy on the theory and hard terminology, language, that sort of thing, or they were very scattered all over the place," Groves said. "So we decided to break down and write a book for the class."

Ferris professors Sandra Alspach and Paul Zube co-wrote "The Communication Web: An Introduction to Human Communication Theories" for the Ferris communication theories class, Communication 299.

"I taught a similar course at another institution where two colleagues and I spent a summer writing our own chapters," Alspach said. "That course was an introduction to communication course, but the material seemed appropriate for the communication theories course here at Ferris, where we wanted a text at the 200 level, but none of the texts we examined at the time included a unit on rhetorical theories."

Similarly, Ferris professor David Russell wrote "Literature for Children: A Short Introduction" for the Ferris children's literature class.

"Originally, the book arose from a need for an accessible and relatively inexpensive textbook for college children's literature courses. I wanted a brief work that provided students with the contextual background, a general overview, without overwhelming them with detail," Russell said. "The first edition was developed over a period of five or six years, during which I assembled materials largely taken from my own children's literature courses and my reading."

Russell is currently working on his ninth edition—the first edition was published in 1991. Groves published in 2012 and is currently working on the second edition, and Alspach first published in 1999 and has had continuous revisions for more than 15 years.

"Every writer does it differently, but my book evolved from a great deal of reading both children's books and children's literature criticism, and also from my own classroom experiences," Russell said. "I have learned a great deal from my students throughout the years."

Although every writer differs, each instructor emphasizes the importance of revision.

"I tend to write in spurts—there are days when I feel energized and creative—and these are followed by days when nothing seems to happen. For me, the most important times are when I reread and revise what I've written," Russell said. "Revision allows you to clean up the mess you made yesterday. I love revision."

The main goal of writing each of these textbooks was to write a textbook for the class, rather than shaping a class around a textbook.

"In the end, there is something very satisfying about holding the finished book in my hand," Russell said. "It is not often that teachers get to see tangible evidence of their work. It's a good feeling."

**Answering the Biggest Objections  
to Christianity – Ravi Zacharias / DVD**

Monday, March 20, 7:00pm – IRC 120

**Metamorphosis**

The beauty and design of butterflies: The product of random processes or of design? A fascinating documentary.

Monday, April 3, 7:00pm – IRC 120

Q & A to follow on April 3 at 8:15pm. Questions may be submitted to @TDPBR. More info on Facebook:

**Truth Discovery Project of Big Rapids**

Anyone who needs special accommodations to attend should contact truthdiscoveryproject.br@gmail.com or 231-660-1878 in advance.



Photo by: Aubrey Kemme | Multimedia Editor

Miller Hall is located on south campus near the Rock Cafe. The building has three floors and is currently available only to members of Ferris' Honors Program.

# Miller mystery

*Bulldogs discouraged from living in Miller Hall*

Harley Harrison

Torch Reporter

It's the season of signing housing contracts, but residents in Miller Hall were told to seek housing elsewhere.

Students such as Ferris pre-pharmacy sophomore Noah Blower were notified that housing assignments for Miller Hall would start in February, even after they had already signed.

"You could already have signed up for a room for early housing," Blower said. "Like, I had already signed up to move back to Miller and they're like, 'Oh, it's closed'."

Although it wasn't hard for Blower to find a new place to live for next year, the two-year resident had plans to stay in the hall.

"I mean, it is kind of disappointing because, you know, it's something that you get used to and you kind of fall into a habit and it feels like home," Blower said. "The more time

you spend somewhere, the more it feels like home and it's just kind of sad to see it go after two years, I guess."

Ferris freshman Taya Treiber is spending her second semester in the dorms. Treiber, however, is not upset with the hall closing because she already had different plans for next year.



Noah Blower

"I love living in Miller," Treiber said. "I feel like I really found my family here. I'm grateful for experiencing living in the dorms. I don't think it was a good thing it is closing, but I understand why it is."

The email sent out to residents explained that the hall would not be accepting incoming freshmen and would delay housing for current residents, however, no

specific dates were given.

"I'm not 100 percent positive because it sounds like they're not allowing new people to sign up and they're en-

couraging everybody who is there now to move, so it sounds like [it's closing] next semester for sure," Blower said.

The email also offered suggestions for additional housing for honors students, which include Puterbaugh, Pickell, Ward and Henderson. But the email does not explain what will happen to the hall.

"I don't think that it's necessarily necessary, but I also think there's plans for it that we don't know about, so there's something behind it that's kind of driving it," Blower said. "It's definitely not falling apart. It's in pretty good condition, but I'm assuming they're trying to add new things and I know that the plumbing and heating systems are probably a little bit out of date, so I'm sure it's things like that that they're planning on changing to kind of make people more comfortable than it already is."

The Ferris housing Department was unavailable for comment prior to the publication deadline.

# Masters in social work

## Ferris social work program fully accredited

Kip Biby

Torch Reporter

Ferris State's Masters of Social Work (MSW) program has recently received full accreditation after a four-year process.

Work to become fully accredited started in 2013. During the period of partial accreditation, the MSW program was required to submit self studies and evidence of growth within the program to the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE). CSWE representatives also visited the program regularly.

This program is not limited to those with a bachelor's degree in social work. Wendy Samuels is the MSW program director and the chair of the social work department.

"Many of our MSW students have bachelor's degrees in psychology, sociology, criminal justice and even business," Samuels said.

According to Samuels, if you already have a bachelor's in social work, it takes significantly less time to complete the master's program.

The MSW program currently has 72 students who are seeking a wide array of jobs upon graduation.

"An MSW is an advanced social work degree and the type of jobs people with an MSW can attain are too

many to list. The field is so broad," Samuels said. "Generally, advanced specialists either practice in the macro arena (administrative, policy, politics) or the micro arena (therapists, school social workers, hospital social workers)."

The program prides itself in its students being highly prepared for their careers after graduation.



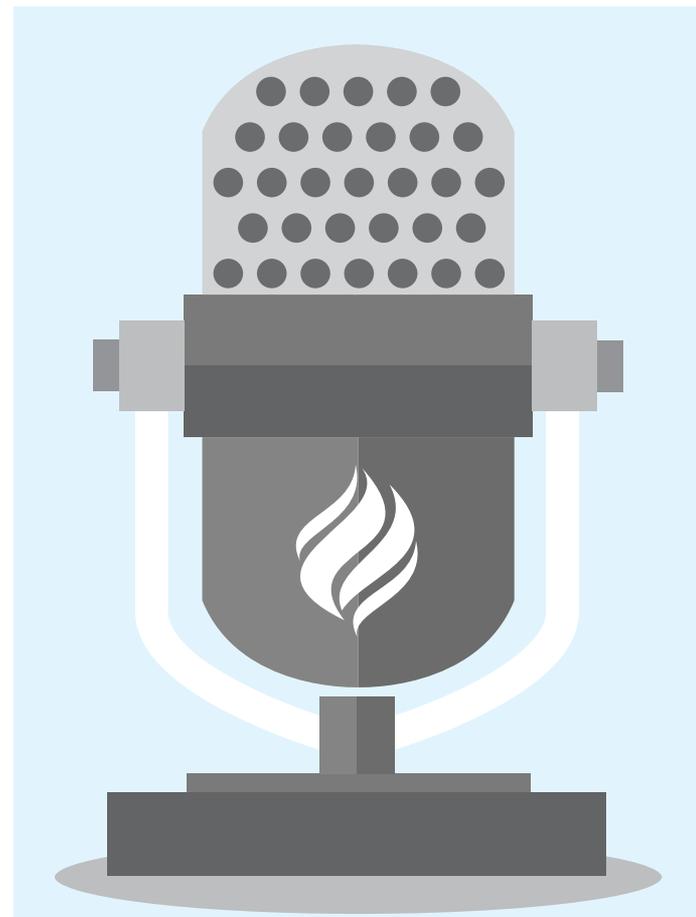
Wendy Samuels

"As a clinical program, our students receive training in evidence-based practices in group, individual and family therapy. They also receive training in leadership and supervision and research. Students are placed in field placements for the entirety of their MSW

program. Field education is considered the signature pedagogy of social work education," Samuels said.

"There is so much you can do with (social work)," said Ferris social work senior Becca Marchetti. "I know a few people who have graduated with the master's in social work and they all got jobs right out of school."

Students interested in pursuing a MSW are encouraged to apply online at [ferris.edu/socialwork](http://ferris.edu/socialwork).



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PODCAST WITH **KIP BIBY**

The Torchcast can be found on our website, Facebook page and YouTube channel

# LIFESTYLES

"This month is all about appreciating women, what we've done, the legacy, everything we've accomplished." - Victoria Mason See page 8 for story

Nick Vander Wulp | Lifestyles Editor | vandern8@ferris.edu



Graphic by: Jordan Lodge | Production Manager

## feelin irish

### Students share their thoughts on St. Patrick's Day

Adrianna Walker

Torch Reporter

It's almost time to break out the green tuxedos, dresses, socks and Leprechaun hats to get down with St. Patrick's Day.

St. Patrick's day, a holiday known in the United States for copious amounts of alcohol consumption, falls on a Friday this year; perfect for students who plan on celebrating their real or imaginary Irish heritage in full force.

However, the holiday has much more holy origins. The Roman Catholic St. Patrick's feast day originated in the early seventeenth century and celebrates the most prominent patron saint of Ireland, Saint Patrick. Originally a religious celebration, St. Patrick's Day has grown to include Irish-themed parades, food and drink, with fes-

tivities spanning worldwide.

About 33 million Americans claim Irish history—but St. Patrick's Day celebrations are never limited to just the Irish.

"Irish on Ionia is gonna be pretty big," said Ferris music industry management junior Hunter Gamble, who's still unsure if he'll be attending.

Irish on Ionia is an annual St. Patrick's Day street party held downtown Grand Rapids.

Gamble said he's not particularly passionate about celebrating the holiday.

"I have a couple of friends who are Irish that go all out for St. Patrick's Day, but I've never been real big on it," he said.

Other students such as Ferris music industry management senior Nicholas Robertson, are more "Irish-at-heart" than

anything.

"Honestly, I like it," Robertson said, who

*I'm not Irish at all, but I like to see my friends have a good time on these kinds of days and it'll be fun to join them*

- Nicholas Robertson

doesn't have any concrete plans yet. "I'm

not Irish at all, but I like to see my friends have a good time on these kind of days and it'll be fun to join them."

As for local St. Paddy's Day events, spirited crowds can be expected at Big Rapids favorites like Star Shooters, which will bring back its Kegs and Eggs at 7 a.m. for those who prefer beer with their breakfast.

After some food, students can then trial their livers with 100-ounce green beer towers and a slew of Irish drinks at 52 Sports Bar, which will celebrate with extended hours and other Irish gimmicks. The best "Lad and Lass" costumes will be awarded a prize.

The Gate will also hold a Pot-o-Gold bowling tournament starting at 10 a.m. Saturday, March 18, at their new location on 3rd Ave.

# Good vibes only

## Ferris acapella group becomes an aca-family

Alicia Jaimes

Torch Reporter

As the doors of room 122 cracked open and students' laughter echoed into the halls, Ferris Vibrato Vibes music director Andrew Mass hit a note on a nearby piano and the room fell silent.

One, two, three...

The Ferris Vibrato Vibes is an acapella organization that welcomes students who have the same passion. Although learning music takes dedication, they also consider a strong connection and a little bit of fun as top priorities for their group, and Ferris Vibrato Vibes' president Tyler Karum created something for just that.

"I was like, 'oh my God, Pitch Perfect,'" Ferris nuclear medicine junior Maria Bortom said.

This is Bortom's second semester since she discovered the Vibrato Vibes on a flyer in the University Center. Singing since she was 14, Bortom was thrilled to have connected with such a fun, dedicated group of people.

"Hey guys do you want to hear Ferris acapella sing?" Bortom said as she recalled one of her favorite aca-bonding moments—when the acapella group performed an impromptu concert for nearby Ferris students.

Aca-bonding is an event that Karum created and hosts with the goal of bringing his acapella group closer together. Rock Band video game competitions, movie marathons and karaoke are typical activities that take place during these times.

Karum said creating a strong personal connection and friendship with group members will not only be good for the group overall, but will allow members to feel comfort-



Photo by: Alicia Jaimes | Torch Reporter

Ferris Vibrato Vibes group members sing, bond and make music fun for each other during their rehearsal meetings on Wednesday and Thursday nights.

able enough when it comes to discussing issues that arise during their Wednesday and Thursday rehearsals at 7 p.m.

This was shown during rehearsal as members voiced concerns and suggestions for their upcoming performance, as well as telling personal stories in hopes of connecting better to the music that was in front of them. Creating a visual and creating emotions not only for themselves, but for their audience was a goal constantly discussed throughout

the night.

Along with touching the hearts of their audience, the Vibrato Vibes have managed to touch the hearts of their members as well.

"Loving" is the word Ferris digital software engineering freshman Izzy Ledesma used to describe the Vibrato Vibes.

"Everybody's serious about music, yet we have fun with it," Ledesma said. "I felt like I belonged."

One of his favorite things about the Vibra-

to Vibes is how welcoming and inclusive they are with new members, a goal Karum likes to stress during his aca-bonding events.

The group of 13 are open to new members and hope to continue to extend their aca-family.

Students can join the Vibrato Vibes by auditioning at the beginning of each semester.

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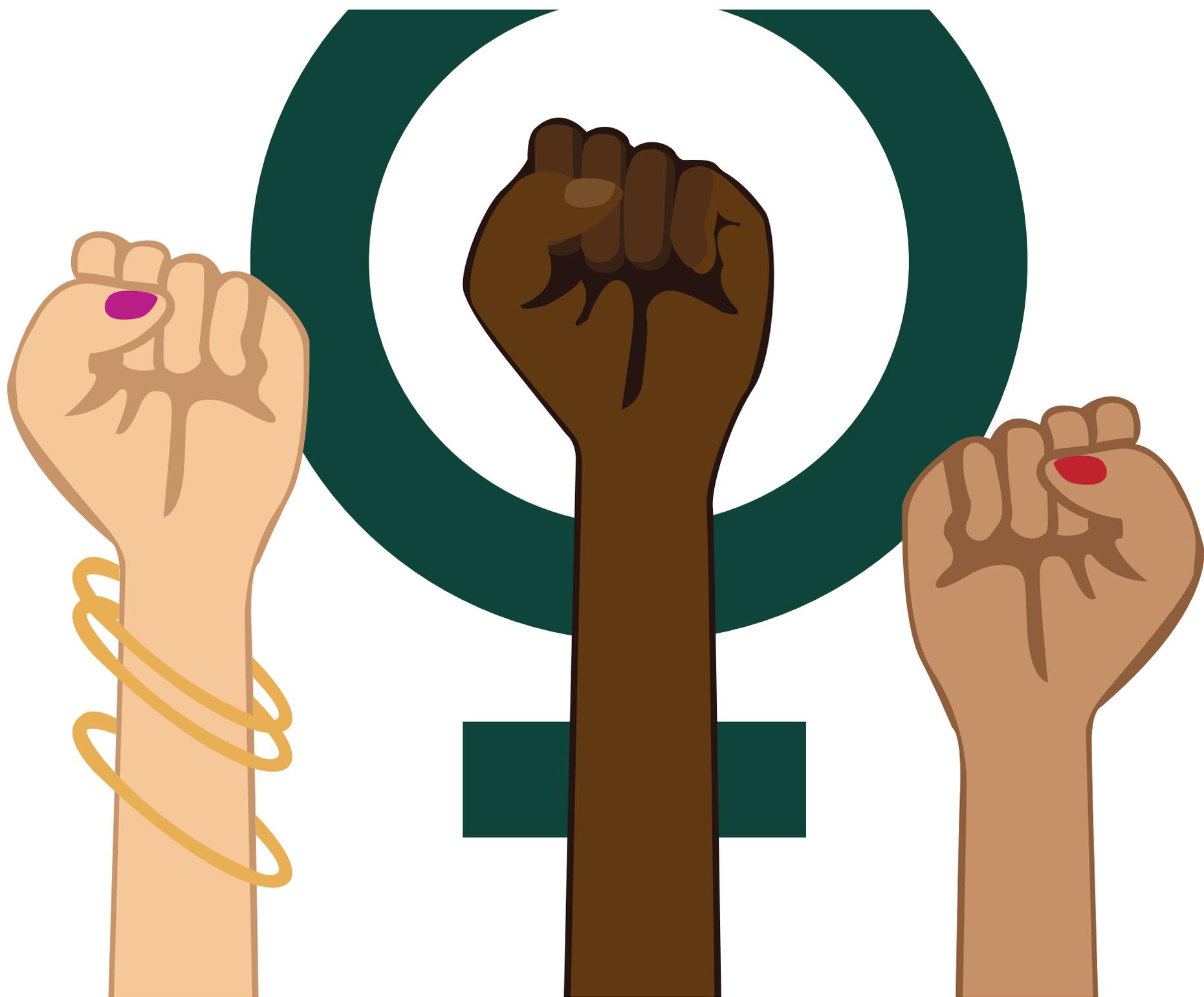
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# Appreciating women

*#BecauseofHER campaign for Women's History Month*

Alexandra Bourne  
Torch Reporter

Members of the Ferris campus community have the opportunity to create thank you cards for influential women in their lives.

Hosted by the Office of Multicultural Student Services (OMSS), the #BecauseofHER Women's Appreciation Campaign will be hosting tables in the University Center from 9 a.m. to noon on March 14 through 16, to offer campus community members the opportunity to write a thank you card to women who have impacted their lives.

"We have this event to help individuals express their appreciation for women who probably don't get thanked often enough," said Ferris human resource management senior Victoria Mason. "This month is all about appreciating women, what we've done, the legacy, everything we've accomplished. [The #BecauseofHER campaign] is just to get everyone on campus thinking about who's influenced them in

their lives and that women have done a lot of cool things."

The event is the first of six events hosted by the OMSS to celebrate Women's History Month.



Joshua Cummings

"It's really important to celebrate groups like this where they've done a lot for this country and individuals but don't always get appreciated," Mason said. "The month as a whole is just to say 'we recognize you, we appreciate you, good work.'"

Ferris Construction Management junior Joshua Cummings said he would write a card to his mother.

"She's influenced me a lot," Cummings said. "The way I hold myself, the way I act. She's taught me a lot of stuff. I would definitely write a card to her to show my appreciation, because without her I probably wouldn't be in the position I am today."

#BecauseofHER will also have a photo booth to post pictures on social media with the campaign hashtag.

"We want to spread the word and love on social media," OMSS Assistant Director Michael Wade said.

Wade also said he would give a card to his mother.

"My mom was a good mom," Wade said. "She provided for us and taught us as a family what grit and being strong and focus really meant. She overall was a visible and ever present influence on my life and helped me to persevere. I always think 'what would mom do?' even today."

The OMSS will also host a Sexism in Print Advertising, Support Our Sisters Women's Health Initiative, Women's History Month Student Tribute, Film Screening: Barbie Nation and Film Screening: Equal Means Equal during the month of March.

For more information on Women's History Month events, check [ferris.edu/omss](http://ferris.edu/omss).



Shana Kirby

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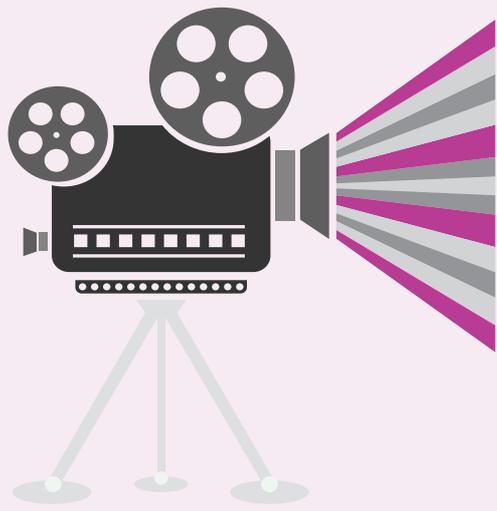
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# MEDIA MINUTE

## Get Out

The horror of "Get Out" is a cultural feeling all too familiar to African-Americans and their experience in the United States of America.



Nick Vander Wulp  
Lifestyles Editor

The premise of the movie is a narrative that is still looked at with anxiety and guarded acceptance in American culture: interracial dating, meeting the partner's parents and the paranoia of navigating white social spaces while black.

"Get Out" is the first major Hollywood production of its kind according to the New Yorker, and the film's director, Jordan Peele, drew on his personal experiences and from several films in the horror genre, including "Night of the Living Dead," "Rosemary's Baby," "Candyman" and "Misery." Another notable influence mentioned by Peele is the 1967 film "Guess Who's Coming to Dinner."

"Get Out" has a very grim humor that is apparent from the beginning when Rose Armitage, played by Allison Williams, tries to assuage the fear and anxiety of her boyfriend Chris Washington, played by Daniel Kaluuya.

Chris asked if Rose's parents know he's black, not only looking for affirmation that there's healthy communication between himself and Rose, but that he doesn't walk into a potentially awkward situation.

"My dad would have voted for Obama a third time if he could have," stated Rose as some kind of coded statement that her dad isn't racist.

"They're not racist," she states plainly after a second of looking into Chris' eyes and seeing that he's not totally convinced.

The dynamic between Rose and Chris that plays out throughout the film appears to be one of understanding as they navigate through her family's and their friends' lowkey racist comments, from physically sizing Chris up, commenting on his genetics and even one guest commenting on how black is the new cool.

Rose shows a deeper understanding of how African-Americans are treated in society during a scene where she sticks up for Chris after a cop asks him

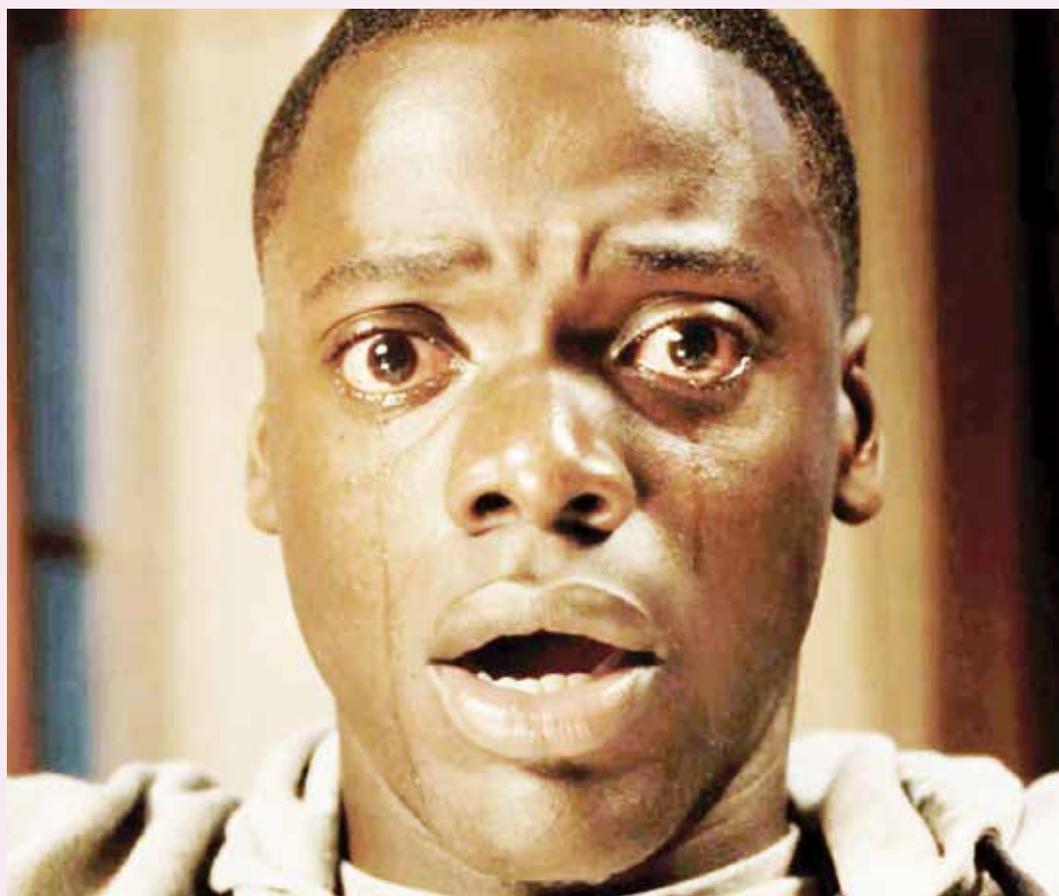
to show his ID, saying that it's "bullshit" and telling Chris he doesn't have to, even though Chris is complying for his own safety. She eventually gets the cop to back off by using her privilege to stick up for Chris, to which he says afterwards: "that was sexy."

The racial undertones are apparent even in how a story of Rose's grandfather is related back to Chris by Dean Armitage, Rose's father, played by Bradley Whitford. His story recounts the 1936 Berlin Olympics win of Jesse Owens, which proved the myth of Aryan superiority false, but takes an unexpected turn when Dean adds in the loss and disappointment of his own father in the Olympic events to Owens.

The movie reaches a turning point when at the party hosted by Rose's parents, Chris approaches another black man, whom he regards as a friendly face in an otherwise tense environment, only to be shocked and confused by the odd behavior of the man who introduces himself as Andrew, played by Lakeith Stanfield. Their awkward greeting is further compounded by Andrew's reaction to an attempted fist bump from Chris when he grabs Chris' hand rather than bumping back.

Later in the scene, Chris takes a photo of Andrew and accidentally leaves the flash on his phone's camera on. Andrew then grabs Chris by the shirt while screaming at him to get out while he can. By this time, it's already too late for Chris after he has his suspicions confirmed about what really happened to Andrew.

The story after Chris' interactions with Dre/Andrew takes its darkest twist, touching on the issues of slavery—particularly sex slavery—and racism by white liberals in the twenty-first century and echoing the horrific history African-Americans have experienced in the USA.



Promotional Photo

Get Out, a horror directed by Jordan Peele, was released on Friday, Feb. 24, and is currently making its rounds in movie theatres.

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# SPORTS

“As honored as I am to accept the award, the credit has to go to this team. This group of guys is so talented and without them I wouldn’t be getting any accolades.”  
- Andy Bronkema See below for story

Apply now! | Sports Editor

# Fear the beard



Photo by: Aubrey Kemme | Multimedia Editor

Head Coach Andy Bronkema led the Ferris men’s basketball team to the most wins in a single season in program history with this year’s 28-5 overall record. He began coaching at Ferris in 2013.

## The man behind the bench leads Ferris men’s basketball team to success

Brendan Samuels  
Torch Reporter

Former athletes have a history of returning to their respective sports as a coach. While some of them rely on their celebrity to land a job, Ferris men’s basketball head coach Andy Bronkema has worked his way from the ground up.

The son of a coach turned athletic director, Bronkema indulged in all things sports in high school before becoming an All-American athlete at Cornerstone University and he had no doubt what he wanted to do in the future.

“I knew when I was younger that I wanted to be a coach,” Bronkema said. “I loved playing basketball and I can remember winning the state championship in high school and thinking about how good it would feel to coach.”

Whether Bronkema was dribbling down the length of the court or obsessing over NBA stars like Chris Webber and Michael Jordan, he was always buried in a world of basketball.

Things slowed down for Bronkema after college as he picked up a job as an elementary school teacher and retained that gig for three years before becoming an assistant

coach for the Ferris men’s basketball program.

Six years later, Bronkema is enjoying an immensely successful basketball season and was recently crowned head coach of the year in the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (GLIAC).

“The success that our team has had is really a credit to the players,” said Bronkema. “As honored as I am to accept the award, the credit has to go to this team. This group of guys is so talented and without them I wouldn’t be getting any accolades.”

Blowing through this year’s GLIAC tour-

**Hoops** | see page 11

### BRONKEMA’S FSU CAREER

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Three consecutive NCAA Div. 2 Tournaments

2016-17 GLIAC Coach of the Year

# Sports Shorts

By Brendan Samuels - Torch Reporter

## Running down a dream

Junior Jon Cok of the Ferris track and field team struck big at the 2017 NCAA Division II National Indoor Track & Field Championships in Birmingham, Alabama. Cok earned All-America honors in the high jump event, recording a 6-foot-9 and one half-inch jump, good enough for sixth place in the nation. Fellow junior Molly Emerick also competed, placing 16th in the 800-meter run.

## Hammerin' Hank

Ferris sophomore center Zach Hankins was selected as the Midwest Region Player of the Year after helping the Bulldogs to a GLIAC regular season Championship, a GLIAC Tournament Championship and the most wins a Bulldog squad has ever earned.

Hankins led the GLIAC in blocks per game with 3.9, rebounds per game with 10.5 and finished second in the conference in field goal percentage by shooting 64.8 percent.

## Right down the middle

The Ferris softball team has been experiencing varied emotions throughout the past few double-headers they have played. In three of the last four matchups that the Bulldogs have played in they have won a game only to lose another. The team did manage to pick up its first sweep of the season on Tuesday, March 7, as they took down Quincy and Assumption. With a 6-10 season record, the Bulldogs will be hoping for a few more sweeps in the future.

## Icing the Season

The Ferris figure skating team earned one silver and four bronze medals in its last competition of the year at the Skate on Wisconsin. The Bulldogs medalled in team and individual competition during the two-day event on Saturday, March 4 and Sunday, March 5 in McFarland, Wisconsin.

Taylor McLachlan placed third in the preliminary free skate and Courtney Lyczynski finished the same in the juvenile free skate. Madelyn Albers took third in the novice free skate. Ferris took second in low team maneuver while the intermediate team took fifth. The lone Ferris dance competitor Kristen Krantz took sixth in the senior solo dance.

Ferris figure skating will be on the ice again in the fall semester when tryouts for the squad will be available to Ferris students.



Photo from Ferris men's basketball Twitter account

Ferris junior point guard Drew Cushinberry (right) and junior guard Deshaun Thrower interact with local grade schoolers.

# A hero for a day

## Ferris athletes give back to the community

Beau Jensen

Torch Reporter

Not every college student has the chance to be seen as a superstar, but when Ferris State's athletes spend time with children of the community, that's exactly what they are.

Giving back to the community is something Ferris athletes are accustomed to, as many collegiate athletes are often requested. Chris Okoye, a junior defensive tackle on the Bulldog football team, went to Riverview Elementary School in Big Rapids during Black History Month to read them a story about African American abolitionist Sojourner Truth.

"I just love going out there and being able to make the kids smile," Okoye said. "They have a really good time when athletes come in. As soon as we walked in they started jumping around and smiling."

Okoye has plans of going into politics in the future and said that having the opportunity to be able to reach out to kids on their level, stepping foot into their world, is a great experience.

The Ferris State men's basketball team also went to the elementary school over their spring break, playing on the playground and reading to kids for March is Reading Month. Sophomore center Zach Hankins said that seeing how much the kids enjoy the Bulldogs' presence is his favorite part.

"We get to make a positive impact on their lives and just spend time with them, and they love it," Hankins said.

In the midst of the NCAA Division II Tournament, the Bulldog men have a lot on their plate, but serving the community in such a manner is a rewarding experience.

"It feels good. It adds a little responsibility to how I conduct myself," Hankins said. "It's easy to forget that there are people watching you, so it is a reminder to be the best person I can be, and if I'm lucky enough to become someone's role model, I can be a good one."

The women of Ferris State volleyball are also heavily involved with local youth. The program hosts camps for young girls looking to improve their game, working closely with the kids. Sophomore right-side hitter Hannah Guy's favorite part about hosting the camps is seeing how excited the kids get about the sport of volleyball.

"Maybe it sounds super corny, but when a kid comes up to you at the end of camp and tells you how much fun they had, it's so rewarding," Guy said. "It's super cool being looked up to because I remember being the one that looked up to others when I was a kid."

There are many ways for people to give back to the community, even if it means giving up an hour of time. Okoye said that athletes never came in and did such things for his classes when he was a kid, but he thinks the experience he's giving these young kids now is invaluable.

"I think this is very important because these kids get to put a name with a face of the athletes that they're watching and looking up to," Okoye said. "Young children get to learn the importance of giving back, and they get to see what it takes to teach that next level."



Zach Hankins



Chris Okoye

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## HOOPS

Continued from page 10

ment with ease, Bronkema's Bulldogs have received plenty of attention for the dominance that they continue to display on the court.

While the team is in the spotlight, there is one thing that may be trending even more than the

Bulldogs' success and that's the facial hair of Bronkema.

"There is no superstitious reason for me growing out my beard," Bronkema said. "I'm a goofy guy and this beard provides a great conversation starter. I am preparing for an appearance on Duck Dynasty though."

While it may be a while before Bronkema's television career takes off, it appears he has a long



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Photo by: Keith Salowich | Editor in Chief

The Bulldogs played the Bowling Green State Falcons six times this past season. They split two series in the regular season, but the Dawgs were swept by BGSU in the first round of the WCHA Tournament.

# Resilient to the end

## Ferris hockey ends its season in the WCHA tournament

Cody Burkhard  
Torch Reporter

The Bulldogs fell to Bowling Green 2-0 in the first best-of-three round of the Western Collegiate Hockey Association (WCHA) tournament, thus ending their season. The fourth-seeded Falcons outscored Ferris by a combined 11-4 in Bowling Green, Ohio. The first game on Friday, March 3, ended 6-1 after a 4-0 Falcon second period, marking the Bulldogs' largest loss of the season. "That period might have been the worst we have played all year," Head Coach Bob Daniels said. Game two began much like the prior-day matchup with an early 2-0 Falcon advantage, but Ferris roared back with three goals to take a 3-2 lead. The Dawgs led until the

17th minute of the third period when Bowling Green rattled off two power play goals. The Falcons struck again on an empty net in the nineteenth minute to win 5-3.

Senior forward Gerald Mayhew was given a five-minute penalty for a check to the back with under five minutes left in the game. As a result, Ferris was without their leading scorer the rest of the game and saw the season end in minutes while shorthanded.

"It was a questionable call but I guess all coaches see questionable calls," Daniels said, "That was a tough penalty to take."

Ferris finished its turbulent season 13-19-5 which is the worst record in the program's last decade. The Dawgs started off 0-7-1 but managed to earn a fifth-seed in the WCHA tournament after finishing their last seven regular season games 5-1-1.

Despite their incredibly slow start, the Dawgs grinded through a season that seemed destined to be a complete loss. They stuck with the mindset of getting better and not getting discouraged in the face of undesirable outcomes.

"I've been impressed with our 'stick-to-itiveness'," Daniels said. "A lot of teams that

start 0-7-1 would have buckled, but our team stuck to it and continued to improve."

The Bulldogs will be sticking to it after a two-week hiatus when they get in the weight room on Monday.

"When we start up again next Monday, in terms of our offseason conditioning, that's the start of the new year and that's when we start pursuing, hopefully, another championship," Daniels said.

The development of the young players, as true in most cases, will be crucial to Ferris' success next year. Four seniors will graduate including Gerald Mayhew, Chad McDonald, Jared VanWormer and Ryan Lowney, so new players will need to step up and fill those positions.

"Going into next year we need some guys

to step up and elevate their games," Daniels said. "They can't come in with the attitude that 'we're going to start up where we left off.' They have to have the attitude of 'we have to pick up where we started out' as in paying attention to detail in practice."

Daniels expects junior forward Mitch Maloney and sophomore forward Corey Mackin to make huge strides next year. Both progressed from the previous season to his year and wound up second and third respectively in goals on the team, but Daniels wants them to make another leap forward and push for more consistency.

The 2016-17 season is in the books and all that's left is to put the work in for next season when the Bulldogs will look to rise again to the top of the WCHA.



Bob Daniels

## HOCKEY SEASON 2016 - 2017 STATS

Overall record: 13-19-5

Conference Record: 12-12-4

Goals: 95

Goals per game: 2.57

Assists: 167

Shots: 1,120

Shots per game: 30.3

Power-play percentage: 15.8%

Penalty kill percentage: 83.5%

Goals Against: 97

Goals Against Average: 2.59

Saves: 1,058

Save percentage: .916

Home attendance avg: 1,933



Torch File Photo

Ferris junior defender Sabrina Austin will be one of 24 Bulldogs returning to the field next season, as the team loses just two seniors to graduation. They'll hope to improve on last year's 6-8-4 overall record.

# Soccer blooms in spring

## Ferris women's soccer preparing for next season with spring competition

Cody Burkhard

Torch Reporter

Spring action is underway for the reloaded Bulldogs as they prepare for the fall season.

Ferris made it to a school record seventh-straight GLIAC tournament last year despite going 6-8-4 overall. The young core of this team remains intact losing only two seniors in Kate Kelly and Meredith Smith. The remaining Bulldogs and the 15 incoming freshman will endure a grinding spring that began with a 7-on-7 round-robin tournament in Mount Pleasant, Michigan against Central Michigan, Northwood and Northern Michigan.

The Bulldogs split into two equal teams in the tournament to enable players to gain experience with other players as the goalies rotated between teams.



Andy McCaslin

"We had to learn to play quickly because the fields were small and the teams played fast. The smallest mistakes would turn into goals. We showed some weak spots, but it helped us learn which parts of our game we as a team had to improve on," Ferris freshman goalie Grace Kraft said.

Ferris went 14-5-1 and made it to the GLI-

AC semifinals in 2015. However, several key seniors graduated and forced young players to take critical roles in 2016. After a rebuilding year, the Bulldogs have gained a trust and cohesion with each other.

"I think we're definitely gelling well now. We've been playing together and it helps our team as a whole to build knowing we have that trust in each other," Kraft said.

Head coach Andy McCaslin and his coaching staff wanted to challenge their team this spring and they're working towards that by scheduling Div. 1 schools and other top Div. 2 programs.

"The spring is a great time to look to improve when we can while facing outside

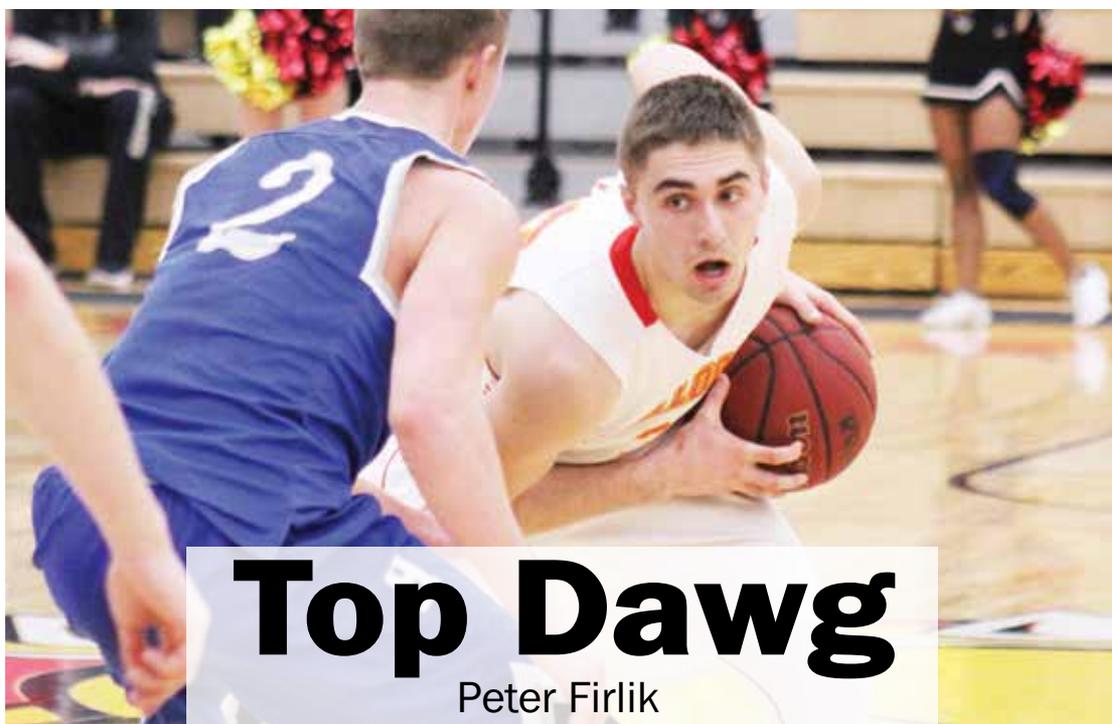
competition and we have some very strong teams we're facing this spring," McCaslin said.



Grace Kraft

The Bulldogs have five remaining games this spring including the annual Alumni Game on Saturday, April 8. Teams left on their schedule include Western Michigan, Oakland, Alma, Siena Heights, Hope and Spring Arbor.

First in line is Western Michigan in Kalamazoo March 18, where Ferris will play its first 11-on-11 action since the fall season.



## Top Dawg

Peter Firlik

Photo by: Aubrey Kemme | Multimedia Editor

Keith Salowich

Torch Reporter

The Bulldogs' season may be over, but playing any postseason games in March is a privilege earned and junior guard Peter Firlik played a key role in getting the Bulldogs that far.

Firlik played the Truman Bulldogs in the first round of the NCAA Div. 2 Midwest Regionals on Saturday, March 11. Firlik netted 17 points and led the team in steals with two in the Dawgs' 86-78 victory. On Sunday, March 12, the Bulldogs fell to familiar GLIAC foe

Findlay 68-63, thus ending their season. Firlik scored 12 points in Ferris' final loss of the year.

The 6-foot-3, 196-pound Grand Rapids native transferred to Ferris after a freshman season spent playing for Owens Community College in Toledo, Ohio. Since coming to Ferris, Firlik has helped the Bulldogs to two GLIAC Tournament Championships, a regular season GLIAC Championship and an NCAA Div. 2 Sweet Sixteen appearance.

Firlik is just one of the 14 Bulldogs who saw action this year who will be returning to the court next season, as the team is losing only senior guard Quentin Ruff to graduation.

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# OPINIONS

“My view is this could be the end of liberal politics in the United States for some time.” - Nick Vander Wulp See below for story

Travis Sacher | Opinions Editor | sachert@ferris.edu

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Mikala Piller

## Chat with the chief

### Editor in Chief, Keith Salowich

How will you be spending your summer?

At the midway point of the winter semester, internships and jobs for the summer are at the top of many Ferris students' minds. Some are considering taking summer classes or knocking out an internship required for their program while others are just dreaming of sun-soaked days on a beach somewhere.

I'd love to sleep in late, hang out with friends and enjoy the outdoors over the summer, but I

begudgingly accept the fact that a job or internship relevant to my chosen career path and a couple of summer classes will better suit my future ambitions. Woe is me. My first-world problems are just so trying.

Attempting to pin down an internship between terms is like becoming a contestant on Survivor, except thousands of dollars in prize money and television fame are replaced with a few months of experience and, if you're lucky, minimum wage.

## Survivor series

You have to compete against others after the same goal. You have to struggle to find shelter. You're often underprepared and afraid before jumping in.

There are internship and job opportunities all over the country, but finding affordable housing near to a summer job is just another factor to consider. That's right, even once you find a position there is still fresh ground to navigate.

To move back in with my parents while working, or to take

advantage of Ferris' free housing with the purchase of six credit hours over the summer? Or should I set off to a totally new direction and live and work elsewhere? Maybe it'd be easier to just make it on Survivor, after all.

There's a lot to consider when seeking an internship and I wish all Bulldogs luck in doing so. Well, unless they're after the same position as me.

Then I'm totally voting you off the island.

## GOT AN OPINION?

### HOW TO SUBMIT A LETTER TO THE EDITOR:

Deadline for submissions every Friday by 5 p.m.

Travis Sacher | Opinions Editor | Email: sachert@ferris.edu

1. Think of a topic that you feel strongly about.
2. Write out your thoughts in a coherent and respectful manner.
3. include a headshot and some information about yourself (location, age, etc.).
4. Email your opinion to the editor for a chance to have your work published in our next issue!

# The end of the Republic?

*American politics continue to melt down post-election*

I wanted to avoid ranting about politics in the Torch this year, mostly because I didn't want to express my views on the end of an era in modern American liberalism to students who may not even know the extent of what's happening or why.

I say this because in the strictest definition of the word "liberal," whether you consider yourselves conservative Republicans, as well as those of you who have come to be called liberals of the Democratic party, you're all liberals in the most philosophical sense.

So, yes, many of you conservatives who decry liberals and their tactics: you are in fact liberals yourselves according to any correctly defined use of the word. You can look the words conservative and liberal up in any dictionary, but I would recommend doing some research on how the words are defined in political philosophy and science.

While American liberals are scrambling and trying to make sense of what's happened after the last election, what many don't realize is they inhabit the dead husks of what used to be their parties.

The Republican party has been co-opted by a wave of right-wing populism that wants nothing to do with politics as usual in Washington D.C., but are what's been described even by the sometimes right-leaning Washington Post as "authoritarian populism."

The Democratic Party is in disarray among many supporters and former supporters because of the under-handed way the Democratic National Committee, from Debbie Wasserman-Schultz all the way down to the local offices, sabotaged the Sanders campaign in favor of Clinton, and even Clinton herself blaming Obama for her loss more than her alienation of the working class or testimony from James Comey on her "ServerGate" scandal.

Now in red states, Republicans such as Florida Senator Marco Rubio are either refusing to show up to town hall meetings because they don't want to be screamed at by their constituents, or they show up and take the heat for the policies and laws affecting health care and the canceling of mortgage premium cuts.



Nick Vander Wulp  
Lifestyles Editor

Out of the ashes of 2016 liberal politics are emerging the alt-right and the more radical leftist movements. Neo-Nazis, white supremacists, ultra-nationalists and other right wing extremists are gaining steam based not only on the victory of Donald Trump here in the United States, but are also drawing on other right wing victories from Brexit—the UK's exit from the European Union—to the now narrowly projected wins of ultra-nationalist National Front's Marine Le Pen in France and populist Geert Wilders of the Party of Freedom in the Netherlands.

Adding further tensions and empowering the right are the immigrant and refugee crises that have affected Europe, and the United States to a lesser extent, and the violence that has come out of these unfolding events.

Here in the United States, there have been attacks against Indians who have been mistaken for Muslims (as if that makes the violence any better) by Americans telling them to "get out of my country" before shooting them.

Not to mention the weekly destruction of synagogues, Jewish cemeteries and bomb threats called into Hebrew schools such as the Jewish Community Center on Monday, Feb. 27, in Ann Arbor.

I'm pointing these examples of right wing violence out because Republicans, who are the controlling parties in the federal executive and legislative branches, as well as in many states, have done next to nothing to address these issues. Trump and Pence have called for a stop to such violence, but only once each for the sake of sound bites.

What Trump and Republicans are focused on now is undoing every achievement of the Obama presidency, while ramping up spending beyond that of any previous president.

The radical left has also gained support, mainly from disenfranchised Sanders supporters. Some of these leftists are actively trying to

dissuade voters from reforming the Democratic Party because many of those still in office are the ones who helped perpetrate the Sanders-Clinton primary debacle, and they've helped to continue policies that hurt the working class here in America and kill people abroad.

The Green Party has stepped up their efforts on the national and local levels to prepare for 2018 elections, and many former Democrats have been welcomed with open arms by the Greens.

Black Lives Matter, put on notice by Trump after his inauguration, remains committed to their principles of restorative justice, collective value, empowering women, and protecting black families, among many others.

Labor organizations such as the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW) and the "anti-party" leftists associated with the different philosophies of anarchism have gained some fame (or have become notorious, depending on your views). Radicals organized Disrupt J20 (the surprise punching of Richard Spencer was a bonus), and chased Milo Yiannopoulos off from college campuses, much to the horror and dismay of many in the liberal establishment.

Because of these actions from the far left, many liberals have stated their support of free speech in some unconventional ways such as mistakenly attributing this quote to Voltaire by Evelyn Beatrice Hall: "I do not agree with what you have to say, but I'll defend to the death your right to say it," while simultaneously announcing death threats to protect the platform of alt-righters and fascists. These extreme attitudes have come from American liberals who claim to support either the Republican or Democratic parties.

I'm not trying to paint a picture of the sky is falling in America, but what I am giving is my observation of where politics in the United States is heading. Authoritarian populists have co-opted the Republican Party and the Democratic Party has disappointed many on the left of the party into abandoning it for other more progressive or radical movements that support their political principles.

My view is this could be the end of liberal politics in the United States for some time.

# Skipping class is contagious

## Let's stop throwing money in the trash, please



Alicia Jaimes  
Torch Reporter

As the alarms go off this week, reminding us that spring break is indeed over, I think about all the opportunities that I'm going to have to skip my classes.

"Oh God, getting back into this sleeping schedule is wonky, I should just sleep it off until I can re-adjust."

"Oh it's the Monday back from break, what class is going to assign homework? I don't really neeeeeeed to show up today."

These, and so many more excuses, make staying home just a little easier, but I won't do it.

Unfortunately, I'm not the type of student who skips class all that often, because I am painfully aware of how expen-

sive my classes truly are.

According to the Ferris website, freshman and sophomores who live in Michigan are paying \$392 per credit hour while junior and seniors are paying roughly \$403.

Yes, I could get all technical and multiply those numbers by the credits one class has and then divide it by how many times the class meets per week, but this is the first week back since break. I'm trying to let my brain ease back into thinking, so for now, let's just agree that it equals a lot of money.

Now, I want you to imagine this great sum of money. Now imagine throw it in the trash because this is what's happening when a student decides that an extra hour of sleep is worth more than 50 minutes of class. This is what I

envision every time I debated turning my alarm off and going back to sleep.

I understand the feeling of just being done with this semester, but you've just got to keep pushing. In a few months you'll be on the beach getting sunburned, I promise.

If you feel you are a student who struggles with showing up to class on time—or sometimes showing up at all—I have a few suggestions for you.

First, you could keep in mind that you are not a morning person when you're signing up for fall classes, because once you show up 10 minutes late to class, you will always be 10 minutes late to class.

Second, set multiple alarms to ensure that you are going to wake up in time. For the record, setting an alarm minute-by-minute is not out of the question.

Finally, as the alarms go off this week, reminding us that spring break is indeed over, remember why you're here. School isn't supposed to be some wild non-stop party, it's here to help you get a degree in a profession that you love so that one day you'll find yourself waking up and not wanting to sleep in because you are so thrilled about your work day.

## For the love of awkwardness

### Netflix original series Love premieres season 2

When I was just about to complete 11th grade my pop culture teacher decided to award students with satirical or comical plate awards. I was awarded "Least Awkward," and yes, this was satire.

On Friday, March 10, the Netflix original series Love released its 12-episode second season. The series premiered on Netflix in February of 2016. The Judd Apatow creation stars Paul Rust and Gillian Jacobs and follows their realistic, rocky and down-to-earth relationship.

Rust plays Gus, an awkward film nerd who is extremely cautious and rarely lives life on the "edge." Jacobs plays Mickey, an abrasive, sex, drug and alcohol addict who time after time makes self-destructive decisions. Gus and Mickey are polar opposites of each other. Gus is portrayed as the stereotypical "nice-guy" and Mickey is the "cool" or "bad girl," although each character is much more complex than that.

If you have yet to watch this series, you should. First off, props to Apatow and Rust for naming the series Love, when it's totally not about love. Apatow has made his career with movies and series with main characters with weak relationship skills, such as Freaks and Geeks, The 40-year Old Virgin, Anchorman and just about every other big Frat Pack film.



Travis Sacher  
Opinions Editor

Everything about Love is real. Love is slow-paced. The series advances, but does not jump, like real-life. Days are not skipped so viewers see the daily transition of the two main characters. About halfway through season two, the storyline has only advanced about three to four weeks ahead of episode one. In that time Gus and Mickey have dated, ended it, dated other people, hooked up again but decided separation for awhile would be best and again got back together without giving their relationship a label. Does this not sound like what dating is truly like for young adults living in the up-tempo and to date Los Angeles? There is nothing perfect about their relationship.

This series is so good because Gus and Mickey are very relatable to young adults — specifically Gus to me. Gus has shaggy hair and wears big-framed glasses, t-shirts with an open flannel, skinny black jeans, drinks craft beer, has sing-along sessions with his buddies and has incredibly weak communication skills when speaking with just about



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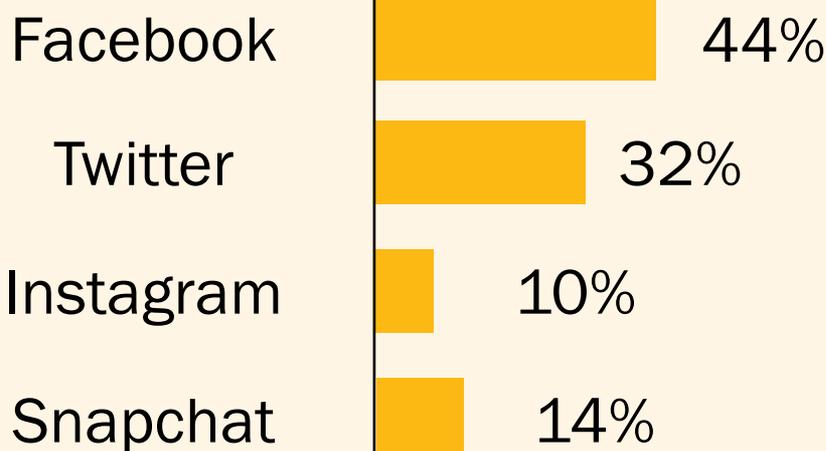
Two seasons of the Netflix original series Love by Judd Apatow are currently available to stream.

anybody. Mickey struggles with addiction and keeping relationships with just about anybody, but has a great job and home in Los Angeles. Every time something goes well for the two lovebirds something brings them back to Earth, usually from Gus or Mickey interfering with their own lives. The relationship becomes continuously more awkward, mostly due to Gus' hilarious awkwardness

This series is not made to Netflix and Chill, but it's perfect for binge watching. A viewing session will become a binge and every time Gus does something awkward or Mickey sabotages one of the few stable things in her life, you will feel for the characters, because something similar probably happened to you, because like I said earlier, Love is real.

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I think Stacy went somewhere extra sunny over break.



Cartoon by: Mikala Piller | Cartoonist

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