



HERE'S WHAT'S INSIDE

A TIME OUT ON TAKEOUT

Copy editor Rebecca Bostic tackles the campus takeout program.

OPINIONS | PAGE 14

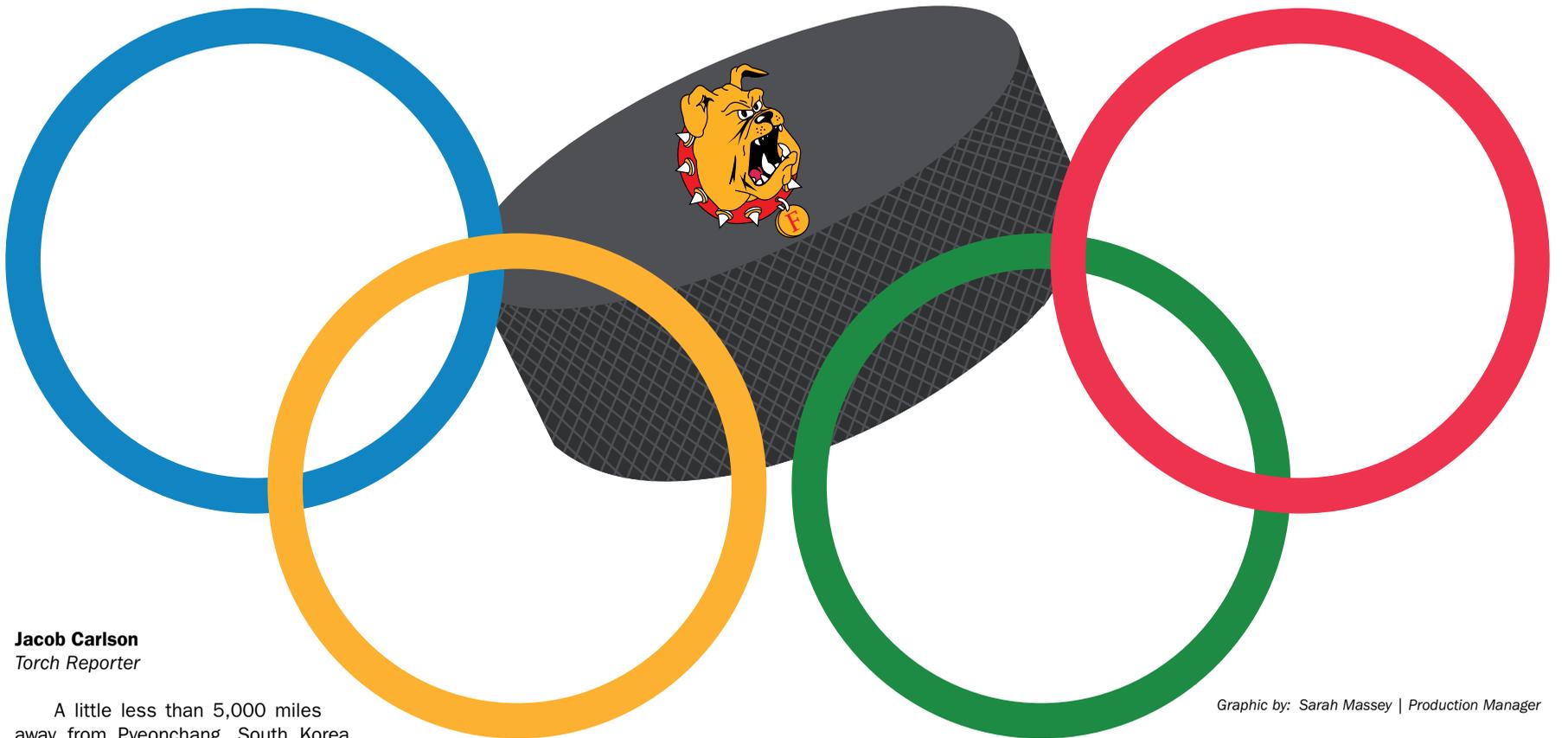
LEAN ON ME

Learn about how emotional support animals help students get through stressful semesters.

LIFESTYLES | PAGE 8

# Olympic Dawg

## Ferris alum Chad Billins headed to Winter Games



**Jacob Carlson**  
Torch Reporter

A little less than 5,000 miles away from Pyeongchang, South Korea, lies a city in southern Sweden named Linköping, home to former Ferris defenseman Chad Billins.

Billins, 28, was named to the USA Men's Ice Hockey Olympic roster on Jan. 1 during the intermission of the National Hockey League (NHL) Winter Classic between the host New York Rangers and visiting Buffalo Sabres. A native of Marysville, Billins will be just the second Ferris alum to ever don the USA sweater in the Olympics and since Jason Blake in the 2006 Torino games.

"I think it's a huge honor to represent your country on the world's largest stage," Billins said. "It's a dream when you're growing up as a little kid and it's so exciting to actually live it."

The opportunity for Billins to participate in the Olympics arose when the NHL announced it would not be sending its players to Pyeongchang due to the league's inability to work out an agreement with the International Hockey Federation (IHF). This will be the first time since 1994 that players from the NHL will not participate in the tournament.

"I think that USA Hockey has put together a great team. Obviously, it changes things that the NHL players will not be involved but I think it shows the depth of USA hockey and the players they can choose from," Billins said. "I think it will be a very competitive Olympics and I'm really looking forward to it."

Billins, a member of the Linköping Hock-

ey Club of the Swedish Hockey League (SHL), is one of 15 members on the team that have NHL experience. Billins played ten games with the Calgary Flames during the 2013-14 season, registering three points, while spending most of the season with the Flames affiliate in Abbotsford.

The 5-foot-10, 180-pound defender was a member of the Bulldogs from 2008-2012, logging 149 games where he tallied 17 goals, 50 assists and 108 penalty minutes. Billins was a part of the Frozen Four team in 2012 and his elite passing skills and leadership abilities cemented his legacy in Bulldog history.

"He's such a great human. I'm happy for him and I'm happy for our school because we got the right people out their representing us," Ferris men's hockey head coach Bob Daniels said. "I'm very proud of Chad and I'm very happy for him."

Since his time at Ferris, Billins has been all over the map, making stops in four different cities. Before signing with Calgary, Billins began his professional career with the Grand Rapids Griffins of the American Hockey League (AHL). Billins helped lead the Griffins to their first ever Calder Cup Championship, excelling under the coach-



Chad Billins

ing of fellow Ferris alum and Griffins' head coach, Jeff Blashill.

After one year spent with the Flames organization, Billins went overseas to play in the Kontinental Hockey League (KHL) of Russia when he signed with CSKA Moskva. Billins left for Luleå HC of the SHL before making home in Linköping. Billins returned to North America with the Utica Comets of the AHL in 2016 before returning to Linköping for the 2017-18 season.

Though it's a long way from home, Sweden has provided an easy adjustment for Billins.

"Surprisingly, Sweden is not that different from North America. They speak very good English, which helps and it honestly feels like we are back home besides the time difference of being six hours ahead," Billins said. "There was a little bit of an adjustment period but the city and the guys in the locker room really do make it an easy transition."

Though this will be the first time in the

Olympics, Billins has suited up for the US in international competition before, including being a member of the Deutschland Cup team where the US played three games in Augsburg, Germany, back in November.

"There is a handful of players that I played with that represented the USA at the Deutschland Cup and the whole Olympic coaching staff was there as well. It was a great opportunity to get to know some of my future teammates and there will definitely be some familiar faces at the Olympics," Billins said.

The team is scheduled to meet in South Korea on Feb. 8, where they will have a week of practice before playing their first game on Feb. 14 against Slovenia in the Men's Group B Preliminary Round.



Bob Daniels

Graphic by: Sarah Massey | Production Manager

League	GP	G	A	P	PIM	+/-
NCAA (Ferris)	149	17	50	67	108	11
NHL	10	0	3	3	0	-3
AHL	213	23	75	98	96	14
KHL	21	2	4	6	8	1
SHL	108	11	44	55	34	22

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# NEWS

"We're talking about the tough stuff. Not everything in this is funny."  
- Charlotte Halm - See page 5 for story

Harley Harrison | News Editor | harrih12@ferris.edu

## Student to staff

### Our new LGBT coordinator

**Grand Siddall**  
Torch Reporter

During her years as a Bulldog, Kendree Berg spent much of her time focusing on LGBTQ issues, which made her the perfect candidate for the Ferris LGBT Coordinator.

"I think since during my time here, I identified as an LGBTQ student at Ferris, so I know a lot about where this community needs a little extra support from the university and also the areas that it really excels in making them feel comfortable. So I think having that background really allows me to kind of see what our students are going through and make sure that we address their needs," Berg said.

In 2010, Berg began her time as a Bulldog. She received a bachelor's degree in psychology and then a master's degree in social work from Ferris. During her time, she wrote papers and researched LGBTQ issues. She continues to impact the collegiate LGBTQ community as a therapist and now as the coordinator at Ferris.

"Throughout my studies here, I definitely focused on the LGBT community in my research and papers.

Currently, I'm working as a therapist in Mount Pleasant. Most of my practice is made up of LGBTQ college students which is excellent and I do work with through Greater Michigan Gender Services with transgender people helping them get started on their transition and get all of those resources together," Berg said.

As a renewed member of the Ferris community, Berg is excited to start working for students on campus.

"Overall, Ferris does a really great job of accommodating LGBTQ students. There are a few areas where we don't have express written policy in place but people are always super accommodating so it's really just making sure that we have everything in writing and that we promise to follow through on certain things," Berg said. "We're really talking about making sure that our students know about our preferred name policy, making sure that we are supporting our LGBTQ athletes, making sure that we are supporting our students in the housing environment and making sure that our classrooms are really inclusive."



Kendree Berg



Graphic by: Sarah Massey | Production Manager

## Taking strides

### Ferris fostering inclusivity

**Grand Siddall**  
Torch Reporter

A new LGBTQ Center, which has been underway for years, is expected to be complete by mid-February.

The center, which will be located in the University Center next to the Veterans Center, is something that has been considered for years, according to the new LGBTQ coordinator, Ferris alumni, Kendree Berg.

"This has been in the works for a very long time, probably before I even started coming here as a student in 2010. It was written into the diversity plan by Dr. Pilgrim in the diversity committee a few years ago. More recently, students have been doing a really good job of continuing to advocate for this center and making sure that the university knows that this is a priority and that it needs to happen now," Berg said.

The center will be used for a variety of different activities and will be a resource center for LGBTQ students.

"There's always going to be someone there to greet students, to answer their questions, someone to listen to them if they have something they need

to talk about. But really it's just a place where we can host events, where our students organizations can meet if they want to and where people can hang out and meet other people like them and just feel really comfortable and safe in that environment," Berg said.



Raymond Heinlen

The center and new coordinator are exciting new additions to campus for many LGBTQ

students and organizations who are looking for better representation and fellowship in the LGBTQ community.

"I'm excited that the representation will be there and that now there will be a forum for more open discussion about issues that the LGBT community may face," Ferris technical digital media production senior and DSAGA member, Raymond Heinlen said. "I'd love to be able to refer [DSAGA members] to the center or have the center refer people to us if they're looking for that extra community."

## Bon Appétit

### Dining services cater to students on the go

**Cora Hall**  
Torch Reporter

While the students were away on break, construction teams were at work and the University Center received an update in the Quad.

The addition, dubbed the Snack Shack, is much like the Market next to the Rock, selling a multitude of snacks and several Meal X-Change options. For busy students with meal plans, this provides a quick option to eat. And for students who want to sit down and eat, the Quad may be less busy around meal times.



Isaiah McCrory

"I think the main benefit will be that the Quad will be less busy," Ferris business administration freshman Jared Prevost. "Sometimes you can't even find a seat and especially when you're paying for a meal plan that can be really frustrating. So just knowing you can go in there and buy a snack and use your Bulldog Bucks will be nice."

According to Associate Vice President for the Physical Plant Michael Hughes, the update was needed because of the customer demand for a quicker dining option. Hughes also said that minimal seating was lost from the addition and the project in total cost around \$150,000.

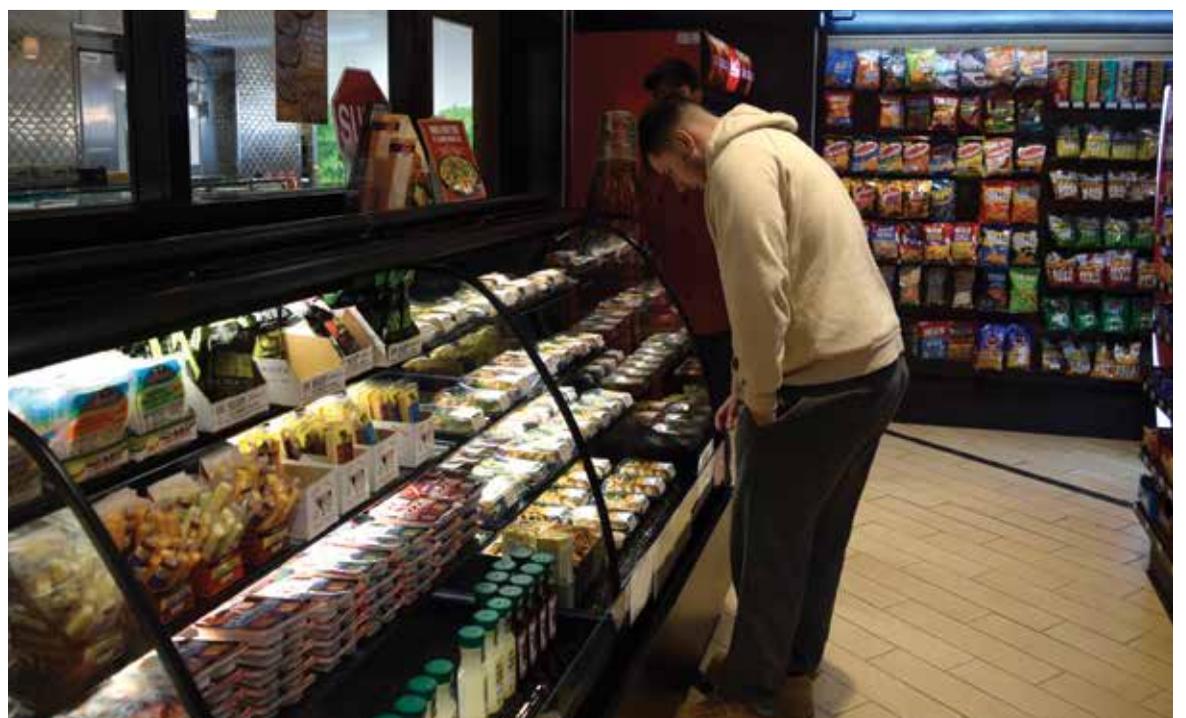


Photo by: Marcus Gurnee | Torch Photographer

Bulldogs can now graze through different pre-made food options in the Quad's Snack Shack, located in the University Center.

"That facility has really exceeded everyone's expectations—the University Center—and really has become the living room for the university. So, I think it was just recognition of the folks that wanted something quick to get it, go and get on their way, stick it in their backpack for later," Hughes said.

Some students are a fan of the new option because it's just that—new.

"Most people get tired of [the Quad], sometimes I get

tired of it and I'll just want to run in there real quick and get something," Ferris sports communication junior Isaiah McCrory said.

Other ongoing projects that made progress over break included the locker rooms at the Recreation Center, the tennis courts and the Swan annex project. Projects to break ground in the near future are the Professional Golfers' Association (PGA) Learning Center at Katke and renovations to the Pharmacy building, according to Hughes.

# WEEKLY WORLD NEWS

Catch up on news around the globe

Harley Harrison  
News Editor

2018. *The New York Times*.

### Archidona, Spain

500 Algerian migrants were intercepted to a Spanish prison after the migrant detention centers faced a space shortage. While the prison is brand-new, it is designed to hold 2,000 prisoners and was supposed to open this year. Residents of the town helped collect food and clothing but migrants held protests in the prison.

Original story by Raphael Minder, Jan. 10, 2018. *The New York Times*.

### Siena, Italy

Pope Francis' charity office announced that it was planning on taking more than 2,000 homeless and poor people to the circus, including refugees and prisoners. Despite the gesture, animal rights activists, such as the Animal Protection League have criticized the idea due to the mistreatment of animals in the circus.

Original story by Gaia Pianigiani, Jan. 10,

### Southern California

At least 17 people are dead after a massive mudslide destroyed roughly 300 houses. Rescue workers are still searching for survivors and many have been evacuated from the area. The mudslides come just weeks after wildfires burned away plants in the area.

Original story by Thomas Fuller, Jan. 10, 2018. *The New York Times*.

### Sahara Desert

News stations in Algeria have reported approximately 15 inches of snow in the region of Ain Séfra. The desert is known for its extreme temperatures, however, experts say snowfall is quite rare, although how rare is unknown as the Sahara Desert is as big as the United States and weather stations are few and far between.

Original story by Iliana Magra, Jan. 9, 2018. *The New York Times*.

## - ON THE RECORD -

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

### There's this car... It runs on water, man!

Harley Harrison  
News Editor

#### Clark troubles

Jan. 3, 5:35 p.m., officers investigated a report of larceny in Clark Hall. The investigation was closed due to a lack of leads.

#### Try and act normal

Jan. 4, 11:14 p.m., officers responded to a controlled substance violation and improper transport in Lot 9. One warrant request was submitted to the prosecutor's office.

#### Clark can't catch a break

Jan. 9, 5:24 p.m., officers responded to a larceny complaint in Clark Hall. The case was closed and one student was referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

#### There's this car... it runs on water, man!

Jan. 10, 9:46 p.m., officers investigated a controlled substance violation and narcotics equipment violation in Lot 11. Two subjects were arrested and one subject was referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

## NEWS BRIEFS

Harley Harrison  
News Editor

#### Pancakes in the IRC

Join the Center for Leadership and Career Services (CLACS) in the Interdisciplinary Resource Center (IRC) Connector for free pancakes and delicious toppings Thursday, Jan. 18 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. For more information, please contact Kathryn Thomas at 231-591-2682.

#### University Center anniversary party

Come to the University Center to celebrate the anniversary of its construction Friday, Jan. 19, 9 p.m. to midnight. Questions can be directed to University Center Staff at 231-591-5916.

#### Spring RSO fair

Check out many of the RSOs in the University Center, room 202, Monday, Jan. 22 from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. Students can learn about how to get involved with some of the 200 RSOs Ferris has to offer. For more information, please email Teresa Fogel at TeresaFogel@ferris.edu.

# Remembering Aaron Dault

## Car accident takes life of Ferris student



Submitted photo

Ferris senior Aaron Dault poses in a field after a day of hunting.

Harley Harrison  
News Editor

Just one day before the beginning of the spring semester, Ferris senior Aaron Lee Dault was killed instantly in a car crash.

According to an article by Fox 17, Dault was driving on White Creek Avenue in Solon Township at 2:30 a.m. Sunday, Jan. 7, when his car left the road and struck a tree. Police are still investigating the accident

but they believe alcohol played a role.

An obituary for Dault, which was posted on mlive.com, described Dault as a genuine young man with a million-dollar smile. Dault was from Cedar Springs and graduated from Cedar Springs High School in 2013. He loved to play soccer and practice his guitar, and he was very involved in his church, St. John Paul II.

For more details on the accident, visit fox17online.com or visit mlive.com to read Dault's obituary.

## Torch Corrections

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# His legacy continues

Ferris honors Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.



Photo by: Abbey Good | Multimedia Editor

Bulldogs brace the bitter cold to march in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

**Megan Lewton**  
Torch Reporter

Nearly 50 years after his death, Ferris students and faculty continue to remember Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in a three-day celebration for the 32nd consecutive year.

Monday, Jan. 15 through Wednesday, Jan. 17, the Office of Multicultural Student Services (OMSS) held a series of events, exhibits and discussions to celebrate King. Annual events such as the Freedom March and the Student Tribute returned to campus on Monday. Other events included a discussion with Ferris alumnus Ron Snead, who discussed life at Ferris in 1968 when King was assassinated, and a presentation by author and activist Monti Washington about diversity and inclusion.

OMSS wanted the events to honor King as well as show students how they can make a difference today, according to OMSS Assistant Director Michael Wade.

"We should be reminded about what are our issues, what

are our major social justice issues that we want to champion as individuals and how do we collectively come together? I think MLK Day serves as that opportunity to bring the campus community together to engage and reflect but also come together to champion any issues of today," Wade said. In order to show students how they can make a positive impact, OMSS organized a way for students to give back on MLK Day.



Michael Wade

"MLK Day is recognized as a national day of service, so because of that, we partnered with the CLACS Volunteer Center to coordinate sites in the Big Rapids community where students can go and volunteer on MLK Day," Wade said.

A large, diverse group of students and community members participated in the events. Ferris dental hygiene junior Karisa Sharon said the events were successful in bringing

the campus together.

"It was nice to see everyone come together as a community, and it was nice to see familiar faces and people that I had classes with previously be in the march as well," Sharon said.

Ferris psychology junior Bailey Reiter participated in the march to honor what King did to lead us to equality.

"This day is important to me because we get to come together and really support, as a whole, as a school, the freedom that Martin Luther King Jr. gave to us and gave to everyone and made us all as equal as we are at this point," Reiter said.

Wade agreed that King's message is still applicable today.

"Dr. King's legacy lives on in the work that we do. I think that too often we look at the leaders of the past when we're looking for leaders of today and really, we should be looking at ourselves. I think his legacy means that you do matter, everyone matters but you can make a difference," Wade said.

# Simplifying scholarships

*The difference between winning awards or coming up empty*

**Grant Siddall**  
Torch Reporter

Scholarship applications can be stressful but knowing what a review board is looking for and what mistakes to avoid can help.

Ferris currently lists almost 300 scholarships on their website, MyScholarships. While not all students will qualify for every scholarship, most students on campus will qualify for at least a few. For students

who will be applying for scholarships there are a few dos and don'ts when it comes to applications, according to a variety of resources.

#### Do:

Make your essay stand out. Judges do not want to read what is essentially the same essay from hundreds of different people. The more thoughtful and unique your response is, the better chance you have of winning.

Apply for scholarships that you think might be unpopular. Scholarships that offer less money or that require more time and effort often do not have as many applicants, which increases your odds of being awarded.

Proofread your application and essay. You may miss small mistakes, so having someone else proofread your essay can be very beneficial. Try visiting the writing center on campus for help.

Use professional language. "[Committees] can tell when students are applying with their phone, I think it's fine to use your phone but students need to be really careful when typing in answers or essays that they don't abbreviate like they would in a text and that they still capitalize and punctuate," Ferris scholarship coordinator Kristine Workman said.

#### Don't:

Don't reuse essays. Each scholarship you apply for should have a unique essay that specifically addresses the topics that are asked. Using one essay and just changing the name of the scholarship may save time but it often will lead to failure.

Don't go over the word limit. Try to get close to the word limit but for many scholarships, exceeding the word limit will disqualify you.

Don't apply for everything. Applying for

every scholarship available is time consuming and often leaves students burned out, which leads to subpar applications towards the end. Choose the scholarships that you think fit you best and that you have the best chance of winning and stick with those.

Don't get scammed. If a scholarship has an application fee there is a good chance that it is a scam. Other popular scams will ask for credit card information to hold the scholarship or will make you pay to view scholarships that are available elsewhere.

When visiting the MyScholarships page on the Ferris website, you may notice that many of the scholarships list \$0 or varies as the award amount, however, even scholarships listed as \$0 do award money.

"Some of them will say 'varies' or they might say 'zero' or not have a dollar amount listed for the scholarship award because we don't always know from year to year what's going to come in. We could work on making it so they say all say varies instead of zero," Ferris scholarship coordinator Kristine Workman said. "It's totally up to the donor, these are outside private donors so awards vary based on what each donor wants to give or has available to give that year... [Scholarships] won't be on [MyScholarships] if we aren't going to award it."

# Monologues that matter

Ending women's injustice one performance at a time



Photo by: Abbey Good | Multimedia Editor

Ferris Social Work Association holds a bra drive to help survivors of sex trafficking.

**Megan Lewton**  
Torch Reporter

The Ferris Social Work Association wants your bras and they want them now.

Ferris social work students are working to raise awareness about violence against women and promote female empowerment by hosting a bra drive and taking the stage.

7 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 8, at Williams Auditorium, the Social Work Association is hosting the Vagina Monologues, an event to discuss women's issues in society. An all-female cast will perform monologues written by playwright and women's rights activist Eve Ensler, according to Ferris social work senior and Social Work Association President Charlotte Halm.

"We're talking about the tough stuff. Not everything in this is funny. Some of it gets down to genital mutilation, rape, sexual assault, things like that. Some of the monologues have kind of a lighter spin on them but not all of them, so it definitely gets you talking about the tough stuff. It kind of makes you uncomfortable but then you grow. And that's what we're all about," Halm said. "With an event like this, we hope it gets people talking."

In addition to the performance, the Social Work Association is helping women in need by working with [freethegirls.org](http://freethegirls.org). People can donate their new or gently used bras that will be sent to the organization, who employs women freed from human trafficking to sell the bras in order to teach them life skills.

"They sell them so survivors of human trafficking can sell these bras in stores and empower them to be entrepreneurs. It raises money for them, it teaches them skills that they might not have learned due to their circumstances, so it benefits the survivors and gives them opportunities to grow," Halm said.

Ferris social work senior and Social Work Association Vice President Nicholas Hadley hopes the performance and the bra drive will spark an important discussion on vio-

lence against women.

"There's a lot of things that happen to women that aren't talked about and if people are afraid to talk about them, then the issues will never be brought up and never will be sorted out. I think the important thing is that it needs to be talked about one way or the other, and there needs to be an understanding of some of the violence that does happen to women," Hadley said.



Charlotte Halm

According to Ferris criminal justice junior and Student Director of the Vagina Monologues Xena Cook, this is a discussion that needs to be heard by everyone.

"It is important to discuss this topic on a college campus because the students are the future and if we want anything to change for the better then the students need to know and understand what is going on," Cook said.

For more information on the Vagina Monologues or to donate to [freethegirls.org](http://freethegirls.org), visit the Social Work Association's table in the University Center.

**VAGINA MONOLOGUES' FREE THE GIRLS BRA DRIVE UNIVERSITY CENTER 11 A.M. TO 1 P.M. ON THE FOLLOWING DATES:**

**FRIDAY, JAN. 26  
TUESDAY, JAN. 30  
TUESDAY, FEB. 6  
WEDNESDAY, FEB. 7  
THURSDAY, FEB. 8**

# What is Ferris worth?

Buildings worth more than \$700 million



Photo by: Keith Salowich | Torch Photographer

The recently built North Hall was budgeted at \$28.15 million.

**Grant Siddall**  
Torch Reporter

Ferris now owns 17 residence halls and at least 90 buildings that range in price from \$23 thousand to \$52 million.

According to the Ferris State University Statement of Values that is released by the university and includes all of the universities buildings, the value of each building, the contents value, the library value and the fine arts value, Ferris owns more than \$700 million worth of buildings between the Big Rapids and Grand Rapids campuses. The combination of all buildings included in the statement, which excludes North Hall, totals \$708,712,628, which is an increase in value of more than \$14 million from last year as almost every building saw a small increase in value.

The building values are based on the property insurance for each building and the values are then reviewed each year during the property insurance renewal process, according to Ferris State Safety Coordinator Mike McKay. The values are based on historic data and are adjusted based on a fixed rate.

With the addition of North Hall, which was budgeted at \$28.15 million, the worth of residence halls at Ferris equals just more than \$97 millions with the assumption North Hall was built at maximum budget. That would also mean that North Hall is worth approximately 29 percent of the total worth of residence halls on campus. The other halls are worth:

**Bishop:** \$6,984,428  
Built 1968 renovated in 1987  
Contents value: \$533,336  
**Bond:** Not listed  
Built 1966  
Contents value: Not listed  
**Brophy:** \$3,614,290  
Built 1962  
Contents value: \$627,433  
**Clark:** \$5,918,634  
Built 1960  
Contents value: \$647,437  
**Cramer:** \$9,489,928  
Built 1969  
Contents value: 1,013,502  
**Hallsy:** \$6,413,630  
Built 1958  
Contents value: \$520,103  
**Henderson:** \$3,568,855  
Built 1965  
Contents value: \$1,070,932  
**Johnson:** \$4,328,546

Built 1959  
Contents value: \$641,978  
**McNerny:** \$3,353,483  
Built 1962  
Contents value: \$642,493  
**Merrill:** \$5,275,958  
Built 1961  
Contents value: \$569,697  
**Miller:** \$3,892,662  
Built 1964  
Contents value: \$590,372  
**Pickell:** \$5,119,369  
Built 1965  
Contents value: \$588,915  
**Puterbaugh:** \$3,903,438  
Built 1965  
Contents value: \$1,172,789  
**Taggart:** \$4,850,458  
Built 1964  
Contents value: \$0  
**Travis:** \$5,275,958  
Built 1961  
Contents value: \$563,258  
**Vandercook:** \$5,505,753  
Built 1957-98  
Contents value: \$539,484  
**Ward:** \$4,601,492  
Built 1963  
Contents value: \$588,915

Other than the residence halls, the rest of campus features some other very expensive buildings. The top five most expensive buildings are:

**FLITE:** \$52,040,576  
Built 2001  
Contents value: \$21,540,576  
Fine Arts value: \$10,000,000  
Library value: \$26,516,305  
Total value: \$110,097,791  
**University Center:** \$34,997,030  
Built 2015  
Contents value: \$5,537,830  
Total value: \$40,534,860  
**Michigan College of Optometry:** \$29,148,662  
Built 2010  
Contents value: Listed at \$0  
Total value: \$29,148,662  
**Student Recreation Center:** \$20,412,811  
Built 1962 renovated 1999  
Contents value: \$472,078  
Total value: 20,884,889  
**Ewigleben Sports Center:** \$15,970,902  
Built 1974 renovated 1982 & 1999  
Contents value: \$1,070,932  
Total value: \$16,991,002

The fine art value listed for FLITE was determined by independent appraisals.





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# LIFESTYLES

"Since we spend all of this time together, we really become like brothers and sisters." - Justin Ullrey - See page 9 for story

Alicia Jaimes | Lifestyles Editor | jaimesa@ferris.edu

## Healthy ambitions



Photo by: Sam Cavotta | Torch Photographer

Ferris criminal justice junior Samantha Costanza stretches at a Blue Line Fitness Club meeting.

## Working off winter weight

**Brianna Hammtreee**  
Torch Reporter

As the new semester begins, students return with new goals and interests in mind. For some, these goals include popular new year resolutions such as losing weight or being more involved during the academic year.

This is where Blue Line Fitness Club comes into play. Blue Line is a registered student organization (RSO) on campus that first began as a way for law enforcement students to prepare for the Michigan Commission on Law Enforcement Standards (MCOLES) and improve their overall fitness but soon evolved into a group open to all students regardless of their major.

Ferris criminal justice in a journalist track senior Bailey Carlton Sargent is the President of the RSO and has found the group to be rewarding for networking purposes and making new

friends.

"One of the biggest things for those who want to join is that it is pretty much self-paced. I do try to push people to try harder and do the best that they can but that is exactly what it is—the best that they can. A lot of my workouts are timed, as opposed to repetition, which a lot of people prefer in my opinion, because when they are timed you can do as much as you want to do. So I guess the best thing to know is that you shouldn't be



Madison Brouckaert

afraid to come because there is a lot of camaraderie and it is very self-paced, so there isn't fear of being judged in that type of environment," Sargent said.

Ferris psychology senior and criminal law enforcement junior Madison Brouckaert has found Blue Line to be a rewarding RSO, despite her own hesitation to join last year.

"I think it really is a good support group. I've met some of my best friends through it. The whole e-board is

actually pretty good friends. So I think it's a really good way to meet people," Brouckaert said.

Those looking to just work out are welcome to check out Blue Line but in order to be considered a member, students must attend at least five sessions a month and have a GPA of 2.5 or higher.

Meetings generally run an hour in the Rec center, with meetings being every Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Sunday at 6 p.m.

"I mean, I would say, RSOs in general—join them. I'm in three and I have a job and I wanted to join as many as I could because I wanted to be involved—especially this one. You'll be able to meet students your own age, you'll also meet those older than you. You'll be able to make connections, make friends and you're just going to prepare yourself. In this case, how Blue Line prepares you for the academy," Ferris law enforcement with a track in criminal justice freshman Brendan Calvert said.

For more information regarding Blue Line, contact Bailey Sargent at sargenb@ferris.edu.

## Hit the gym

### University Recreation Center main office

231-591-2679  
401 South Street  
Big Rapids, MI 49307

Student Rec Center Pool Hours and Days Open

### Lap swim

Days: Monday – Friday  
6:15 a.m. – 8:15 a.m.  
10:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

### Open swim

Days: Monday – Thursday  
7:30 p.m. – 10:30 p.m.

Friday

4 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Saturday

2 p.m. – 6 p.m.

Sunday

5 p.m. – 9 p.m.

One swim lesson is held during the fall and spring semester. Contact cindyhorn@ferris.edu for information.

### Climbing wall

Days: Sunday – Tuesday, Thursday

6 p.m. – 9 p.m.

Wednesday

4 p.m. – 9 p.m.

Friday: CLOSED

Saturday

1 p.m. – 5 p.m.

No experience necessary, climbing wall waiver required.

### Facility

Days: Monday – Thursday

6 a.m. – 11 p.m.

Saturday

Noon – 7 p.m.

Sunday

3 p.m. – 10 p.m.

Friday

6 a.m. – 9 p.m.

### Membership

Memberships are sold at the Student Rec Center, available by semester, year, or on a daily basis. Memberships are non-refundable.

Parking passes are issued to non-Ferris State University members only.

Those using the Rec Center must have a valid Student/Faculty/Staff or community member ID, with a picture ID being required for community members.

### Racquet Center

14342 Northland Drive  
Big Rapids, MI 49307  
231-591-2212

Days: Monday – Friday

6 a.m. – 10 p.m.

Saturday – Sunday

8 a.m. – 10 p.m.

The Racquet Center is offering free fitness courses from Jan. 16 to Jan. 19, 2018.

Tuesday and Thursday will feature:

**Bulldog cardio:** 6:15 – 6:45 a.m. and 6:45 – 7:15 a.m.

**Bulldog fit:** 5:30 – 6 p.m. and 6 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

**HIIT:** 6:30 – 7 p.m. and 7 – 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday and Friday will feature:

**Bulldog fit:** 6:15 – 6:45 a.m. and 6:45 – 7:15 a.m.

**Bulldog cardio:** 5:30 – 6 p.m. and 6 – 6:30 p.m.

**Core & flex:** 6:30 – 7 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

**Suspension training:** 7:30 – 8 p.m. and 8 – 8:30 p.m.

### Ropes course

Fees vary depending on group size, length of program and course availability. The challenge course also has a liability form for both minors and adults.

Call 231-591-5308 for more information.



## Comedic Relief

Comedian Jen Kober brought her original twist on rock-n-roll comedy and storytelling to campus on Friday, Jan. 12, in the UC.

*Photo by: Abbey Good | Multimedia Editor*

# Jams for January

Some music to get you through the first month of the semester

Artist	Track Name	Price
Sam Smith	How Will I Know	\$1.29
Phony Ppl	Why iii Love the Moon	\$1.29
Sleeping with Sirens	We Like It Loud	\$1.29
A Day to Remember	Paranoia	\$1.29
Babymetal	KARATE	\$1.29
Eagles	Hotel California	\$1.29
Train	Play That Song	\$1.29
Ricky Smith	Good Days	\$1.29
From First to Last	Waltz Moore	\$1.29
G-Eazy	No Limit	\$1.29

# A month of to-dos

Spend your free time exploring Big Rapids

**Alicia Jaimes**  
Lifestyles Editor

### Line dance classes

Date: Jan. 25  
Time: 9 – 10 a.m. (beginner)  
10 – 11 a.m. (intermediate)  
Location: Artworks Dance Studio, 106 N Michigan Ave. Big Rapids.

### Joyful Journey Hopeful Art

Date: Jan. 9 – Feb. 28  
Time: Artworks regular hours  
Location: Artworks, 106 N Michigan Ave. Big Rapids.

### Pottery: open studio

Date: Jan. 27  
Time: 9 a.m. – noon  
Location: Artworks, 106 N Michigan Ave. Big Rapids.

### Tai Chi

Date: Jan. 29  
Time: Noon – 1 p.m.  
Location: If the weather permits, class will be held at Hemlock Park  
If undesirable weather conditions, class will be held at the Old Jail

### Pickleball

Date: Jan. 29  
Time: 5 – 7 p.m.  
Location: Ferris Racquet Center, 14342 Northland Dr. Big Rapids.

### National Diabetes Prevention Program

Date: Jan. 29  
Time: 5:30 – 6:30 p.m.  
Location: Michigan State University Extension Office, 14485 Northland Dr. Big Rapids.

### Harmonica group

Date: Jan. 30  
Time: 9 a.m. – noon.  
Location: Artworks, 106 N. Michigan Ave. Big Rapids.

### Knit night at the library

Date: Feb. 1  
Time: 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.  
Location: Big Rapids Community Library, 426 S. Michigan Big Rapids.

### Michigander

Date: Feb. 1  
Time: 7 – 9 p.m.  
Location: Williams Auditorium, 701 S. State St. Big Rapids.

### Super Bowl party

Date: Feb. 4  
Time: 3 – 7 p.m.  
Location: 18361 16 Mile Rd. Big Rapids

### Board game night

Date: Feb. 7  
Time: 6 – 11 p.m.  
Location: Big Rapids Community Library, 426 S. Michigan Ave. Big Rapids

### Free fishing weekend

Date: Feb. 17 – Feb. 18

For more information, visit [www.bigrapids.org](http://www.bigrapids.org).



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# Lean on me

Companion animals prove to be more than a best friend

**Holly Baker**  
Torch Reporter

Many Ferris students miss their beloved pets while living on campus. However, some students do not leave their animals when they go to college.

Emotional support animals (ESA) are companion animals that give support to those who have a disability that could be relieved by an animal's presence. Ferris business administration and marketing junior Mackenna Myers got her dog Bane as an ESA at the beginning of the fall semester.

"Being an RA is really stressful and dealing with my depression and anxiety doesn't help. The first year, I didn't have him and I was fine and then once I got an RA position, I became more stressed," Myers said.

To gain an animal, there are many steps a student must go through. Ferris accessibility coordinator Marie Yowitz walks students through the emotional support animal process.



Bane  
ESA

"They have to go to a certified therapist, counselor and the therapist has to sign off that the student has significant impairment that would require the help of an animal. They sign off on how the animal will alleviate those symptoms and then they identify the animal. After they get approved, they have to go talk to housing and go through the information with housing," Yowitz said. "We try

to get the process to turn around in a couple of weeks. If you have a student that needs an animal and is waiting for an animal, then it is not good for the animal or the person."

Aside from the student's well-being, many people who are not familiar with ESA's worry about the animal's standard of living in the dorms as well.



Photo by: Sam Cavotta | Torch Photographer

Ferris construction management senior Jason Champion does homework with oversized lap-dog, Boy, sitting on him.

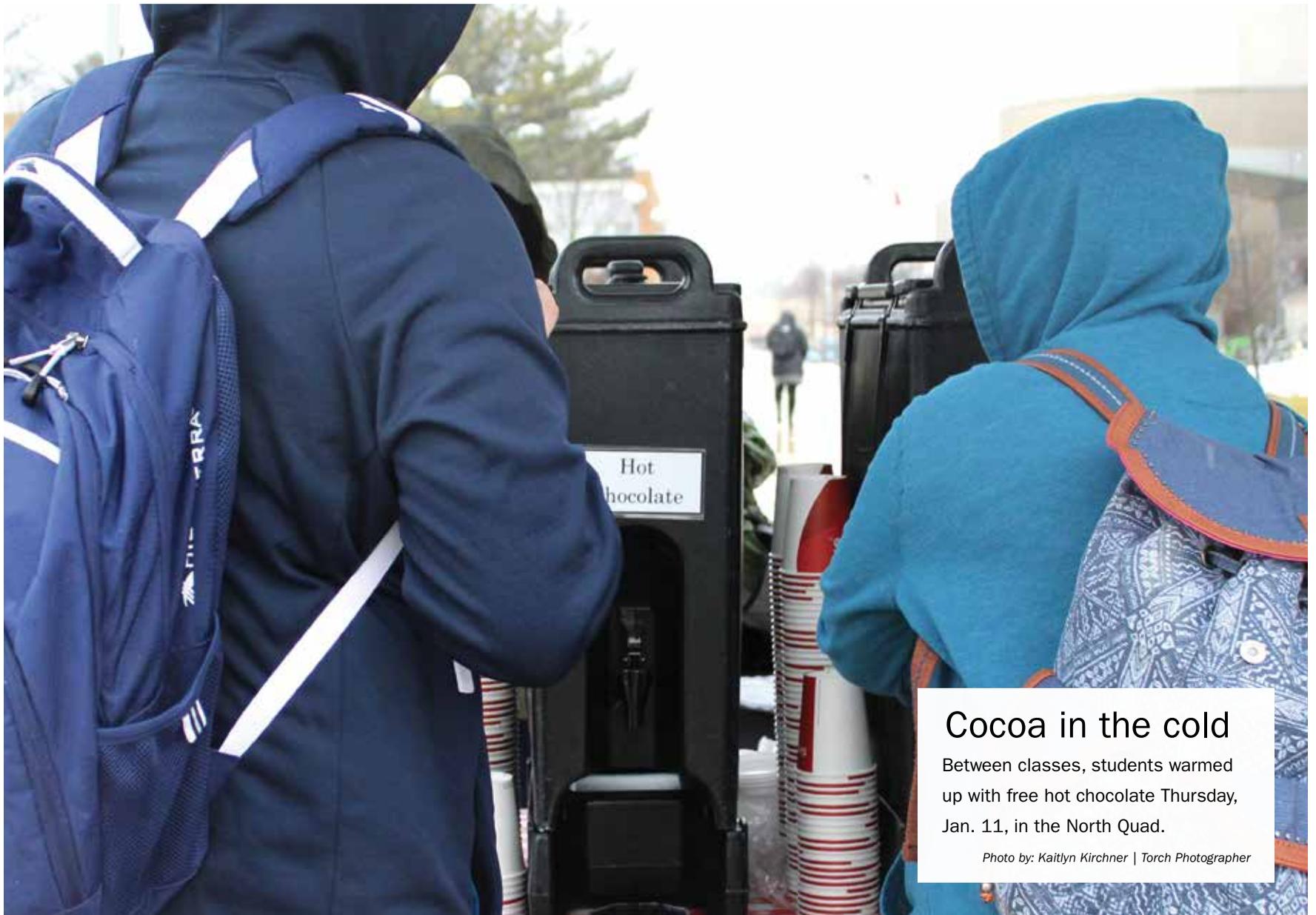
"It's pretty easy to take care of him because I live on my own and I have my own room. I was worried that he would bark but he really hasn't yet. He doesn't have a set schedule because I don't have a set schedule," Myers said.

Myers is an RA at Clark Hall. The residents she oversees love Bane but they can sometimes overstep a boundary.

"I understand because a lot of our residents have dogs and he's extremely friendly too, so as soon as they

learned his name, they would call him and it's kind of hard because people should treat him like a service animal," Myers said. "But on the positive side, I do find that a lot of people find comfort in Bane. I have a lot of residents come and talk to me about something that is bothering them and they find comfort in Bane being there."

For more information or any questions, contact Educational Counseling and Disability Services at 231-591-3057 or visit Starr 313.



## Cocoa in the cold

Between classes, students warmed up with free hot chocolate Thursday, Jan. 11, in the North Quad.

Photo by: Kaitlyn Kirchner | Torch Photographer

# Make it last

## Tips on saving all that hard-earned cash

**Kat Merby**  
Torch Reporter



“Carpooling on my way home.”



Kyle Valk  
Plastics Engineering  
Freshman

“Put your money in several envelopes such as ‘bills,’ ‘food,’ ‘savings,’ ‘spending.’”



Kristin Neal  
General Studies  
Freshman

“Buying off-brand groceries.”



Garret Johnson  
Marketing  
Freshman

“Save extra change as much as possible.”



Jesus Lopez  
Criminal Justice  
Freshman

“Avoid eating out too much.”



Edmon Mungi  
Electrical Engineering  
Sophomore

# Eye am a bulldog

## Students are seeing and believing



Photo by: Megell Strayhorn | Torch Photographer

Ferris students get a 25 percent discount off glasses through MCO eye care center.

**Holly Baker**  
Torch Reporter

Eight years of schooling may seem like too much for most Ferris students but for optometry students, it's only the beginning.

Ferris optometry third year Justin Ullrey attends the Michigan College of Optometry (MCO), located on Ferris' campus. He attended Ferris for his undergrad and is hoping to graduate from the MCO in spring of 2019.

“Since we spend all of this time together, we really become like brothers and sisters,” Ullrey said. “I think the relationships that we have made are really cool, and something that I will never forget.” Optometrists can help people in all stages of life, which is something MCO third year Taylor Smith relates to well.

“It's a unique profession where we can help people over a span of different aspects from either contacts, to dry eye. And we get to help a wide range of people, I can have a patient who is five years old and then I can have a patient that is an 85-year-old. So, I can see someone throughout all areas of life and really be a pillar in my community and build those strong patient relationships

which is really important to me,” Smith said.

The Michigan College of Optometry is one of the smallest optometry schools in the nation, with only 38 spots to fill in each class. College of Optometry Dean David A. Damari takes pride in the small class sizes because it encourages students and professors to become close.

“The most unique thing about the program at MCO is our size. We are the smallest college on campus and, of the 21 fully-accredited programs in the US and Canada, only the program in Oklahoma is smaller. Our students and faculty will tell you that our size creates a feeling of

family,” Damari said.

The MCO eye care center is open to students. They offer services such as regular exams, contact lenses, sunglasses and glasses fittings and more. The eye care center accepts many different insurances, including Medicaid. Ferris students have a 25 percent discount off glasses. To schedule an appointment or if you have any questions, call 231-591-2020.



Justin Ullrey

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## SPORTS

“Winning is a habit. Championship behaviors are a habit. We don’t have those habits quite yet but we’re close.”- Kendra Faustin - See page 12 for story

Brendan Samuels | Sports Editor | samuelb1@ferris.edu



Photo by: Keith Salowich | Web Supervisor

Senior center Jake Daugherty celebrates a touchdown for the Bulldogs. Daugherty was named to the 2017 All-American Good Works Team for his continued service to the Big Rapids community.

# Giving back

## Jake Daugherty honored for work off-field

Jacob Carlson  
Torch Reporter

Former Ferris football offensive lineman Jake Daugherty was honored as a member of the All-American Good Works team during halftime at the Allstate Sugar Bowl on New Year's Day.

The 6-foot-2, 305-pound lineman was a force on the front line as a part of four memorable years of Ferris football. His career as a Bulldog was a successful one on the field but Daugherty will be remembered more for his work off the field.

“All the accolades I won in college, I think that’s the one that means the most to me and the one I’m going to take with me for the rest of my life,” Daugherty said. “All the championships and awards are cool but at the end of the day being recognized as someone who gives back to the community is something special. I was very humbled to receive that award and I’m very thankful.”

Daugherty spent his time at Ferris constantly looking to give back to the community any way he could. Daugherty was added to the 2017 All-American Good Works team to honor and recognize not only the work he did over the past year but throughout his career as a Bulldog.



Jake Daugherty

“My last three years at Ferris is when I really began giving back. I was just trying to make a stamp on Big Rapids and give back to the place that gave me so much,” Daugherty said.

In a way to say thanks to Daugherty for the efforts he put in to give back to the community, Daugherty was flown out to New Orleans for the Sugar Bowl where he got to take in the game with his mother and many other members of the All-American Good Works team.

The All-American Good Works team was full of players from different college football divisions and getting the

opportunity to be part of that is something Daugherty will never forget.

“The experience was crazy. There were people there that have helped raise money for cancer research and people who have started athletic leagues for at-risk inner city kids, so just being in a room with all 22 of us is humbling. You see the kind of work that people have done and you’re just so thankful that there’s good people in the world. It was an amazing experience,” Daugherty said.

After graduating, Daugherty now looks to continue to give back as he begins his journey away from Ferris.

“I plan on giving back to Big Rapids as long as I can, or even out of Michigan and giving back to other places I go—maybe doing missions trips and going places that need help. I’m so fortunate that I had so many of my mentors telling me to give back, so that’s my message for people,” Daugherty said.

# Icy stretch

## Ferris hockey looks to reach full potential



Photo by: Keith Salowich | Web Supervisor

Ferris sophomore Joe Rutkowski handles the puck as he looks for an opening in the defense.

**Danny Collins**  
Torch Reporter

Ferris hockey is coming off a weekend split against rival Lake Superior State Friday and Saturday, Jan. 12-13 and looks to reach the potential that head coach Bob Daniels expects.

The Bulldogs have found themselves not performing well this season and have lacked consistent play. One factor that has hurt the Bulldogs this season has been a lack of competitiveness.

"I would like to see our guys have more competitiveness on the ice," Daniels said. "There have been some nights where our guys aren't competitive and aren't playing with the edge we need to win and that is very disappointing to see as a coaching staff."

Ferris has shown signs this season of what they're capable of and have shown signs of the championship culture that Daniels' teams have had in the past.

Early in the season, it appeared that the Bulldogs were beginning to find their stride when they beat the University of Michigan at Yost Arena for the first time since 2006. The team would then win six out of their last seven games. The Bulldogs also had sweeps against Alaska Fairbanks, Alaska Anchorage and Michigan Tech.

The Bulldogs found themselves on a six-game losing streak from December to the beginning of January. The team is now in eighth place in the Western Collegiate Hockey Association (WCHA) and will need to

consistently win games in order to make their conference tournament.

Another factor that has greatly hurt the Bulldogs this season is not having everyone healthy at the same time. The Bulldogs



Bob Daniels

have had over four players miss significant amounts of time due to illness or injury and that has affected team chemistry. "We haven't been able to get into a rhythm this season due to our players not being at full strength and people have had to play different spots on the ice and that is very difficult to do in hockey," Daniels said. "Our team appears to be healthy right now, so I am looking forward to seeing what we are capable of at full strength."

The team is very young with ten sophomores, five freshmen and only six seniors. However, many of the young talented players for the Bulldogs have had significant amounts of playing time thus far.

The Bulldogs welcome tough competition to Ewigleben Ice Arena in the month of January and they look to put the pieces of the puzzle together in order to make the playoffs and hopefully the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) tournament.

The Bulldogs are back in action against the Bemidji State Beavers at 7:07 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, Jan. 19-20.

# Eyes on the prize



Photo by: Keith Salowich | Web Supervisor

Ferris senior Drew Cushingberry drives down the court. The men's basketball team is still hot with a 18-1 record.

## Ferris men's basketball continues impressive play

**Danny Collins**  
Torch Reporter

The nationally seventh-ranked Ferris men's basketball is currently on a six-game winning streak after a 74-71 victory on Jan. 13 over the Northern Michigan Wildcats in a highly contested Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (GLIAC) matchup. The game featured eight lead changes and was tied six times.

Ferris junior center Zach Hankins led the Bulldogs in scoring with a team-high 20 points and 10 rebounds en route to a double-double. Senior Noah King added 14 of his own while senior guard Drew Cushingberry and senior forward Peter Firlirk added on nine in the afternoon.

The Bulldogs are currently 18-1 overall on the season after

the win and stay number one at the top of the GLIAC standings.

Over the last three seasons, the Bulldogs have a record of 75-24, which is the greatest three-year run in school history. The Bulldogs have been ranked in the top 25 nationally each of the last three seasons.

The team has made three-straight NCAA tournament appearances, has claimed three-straight GLIAC Tournament Championships, claimed a regular-season GLIAC Championship, reached the NCAA Division II Sweet Sixteen once and has twice reached the NCAA Midwest Region Semifinals in the last three years.

The Bulldogs have not shown many weaknesses this season and appear to be on pace for another potential GLIAC Championship and maybe even a national title run.

"We know it's a journey and

little steps to get to a national championship," Firlirk said. "We talk about winning it all in March and how we are going to get there. It starts in practice everyday but we know that we have a real shot at the national championship."

On Thursday, Jan. 4, the Bulldogs rallied to beat the Wayne State Warriors 86-80 in a thrilling battle.

Coach Andy Bronkema, in his fifth year as head coach, earned his 100th victory for the Bulldogs after the victory over Wayne State. Bronkema has compiled a 100-43 overall record along with three consecutive NCAA Tournament Appearances and three-straight GLIAC Tournament Championships.

"We're always preaching go for what's available, whether it is first place in the league, GLIAC champs or national champions," King said.

The Bulldogs will next be in action when they travel to play first year GLIAC opponent Purdue Northwest Thursday, Jan. 18, at 8 p.m.



Peter Firlirk

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# Sports Shorts

**Danny Collins**  
Torch Reporter

### Ice ice baby

As anyone who has lived in Michigan over the past few months knows the weather has been treacherous. Athletes and coaches from Ferris are even feeling the effects.

Ferris men's and women's indoor track and field teams were set to participate in the SVSU Classic on Friday, Jan. 12 but due to very icy road conditions, the meet was canceled.

This was set to be the Bulldogs first meet of 2018. The Bulldogs will be in action next on Friday, Jan. 19, at the GVSU Open hosted in Allendale.

### More honors for the Dawgs

The awards keep flowing for the Ferris football team. Seven standouts from this year's unit were named to the Football Gazette All-Super Region Team.

Four players were named to first team: junior defensive end Zach Sieler, junior offensive guard Nic Sawyer, senior cornerback Tavierre Thomas and junior offensive tackle Devon Johnson.

Three players made second team: seniors Jake Daugherty, Chris Okoye and Terrell Porter.

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If interested, contact Editor-in-Chief Angela Graf at [grafa1@ferris.edu](mailto:grafa1@ferris.edu)

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FERRIS STATE UNIVERSITY

# Top Dawg

Rachel McInerney

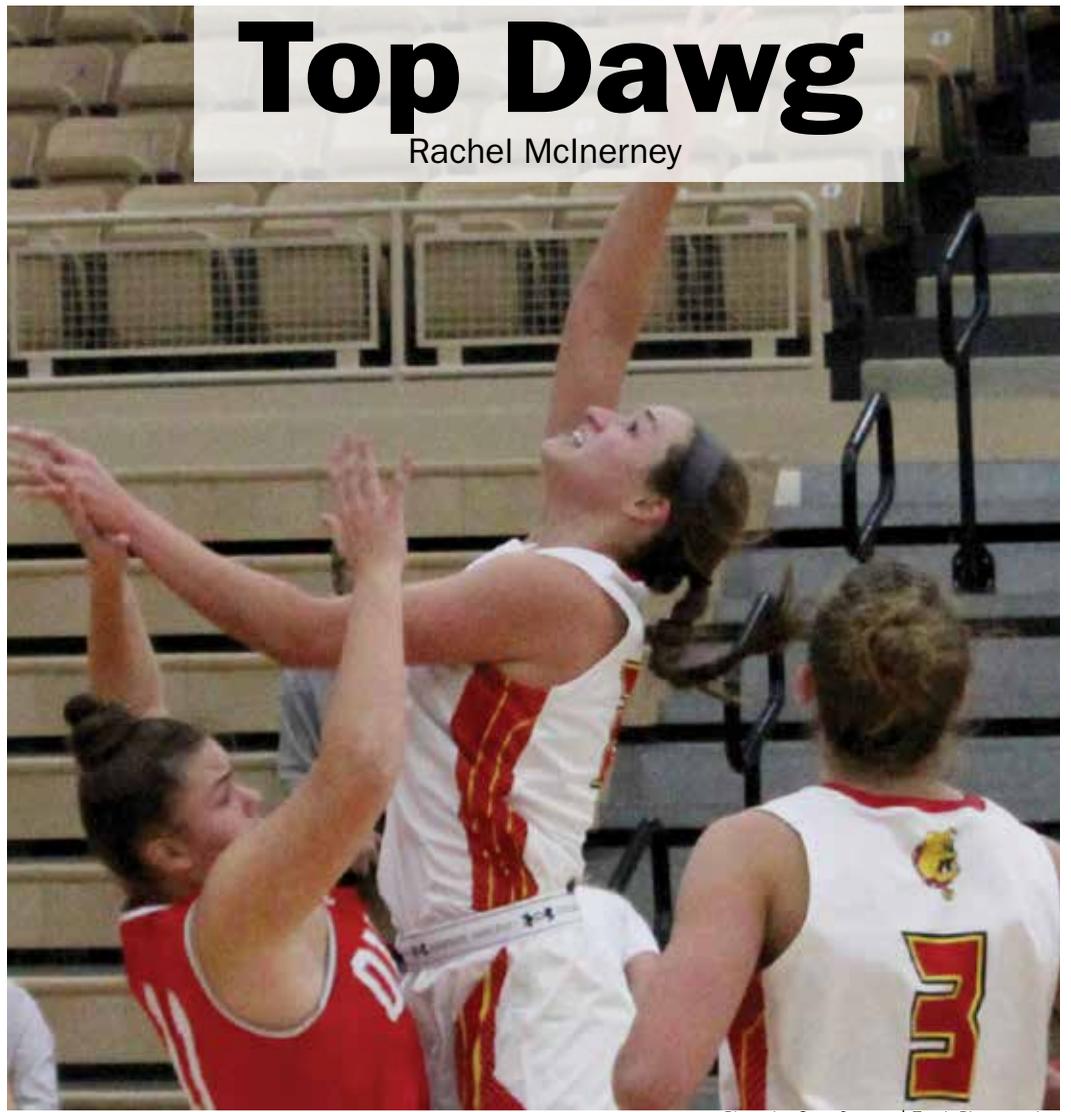


Photo by: Sam Cavotta | Torch Photographer

**Brenden Samuels**  
Sports Editor

One week removed from handing Top Dawg honors to the entire men's basketball unit, the title will remain on the hardwood.

This time however, a single athlete from the women's basketball team was the best of the best.

Senior forward Rachel McInerney has been a consistent weapon for head coach Kendra Faustin's squad over the past four years and this weekend showcased the ability of the 6-foot-1 giantess' talent.

McInerney's week started with a Thursday, Jan. 11, matchup with the Huskies of Michigan Tech. The Bulldogs fell in a close 80-77 contest but McInerney had a spectacular showing, putting up a team-

high 30 points and a whopping 16 rebounds.

The Bulldogs were able to get a win in their next matchup with Northern Michigan, coming out of Wink Arena with a 62-52 victory. McInerney lead her team yet again with 19 points and 11 rebounds.

The win against the Wildcats was crucial for a Bulldogs team that is looking to climb the standings in the GLIAC. The women's team is currently 9-8 overall and sits at fourth in the conference, right behind Northern Michigan.

With McInerney hitting a stride, the Bulldogs will likely continue playing well for the rest of the season.

The Dawgs will be back in action Thursday, Jan. 18, when they take on Purdue Northwest at 6 p.m.

# Finding consistency

## Ferris women's basketball team looking to build momentum

**Jacob Carlson**  
Torch Reporter

It's been a back and forth season for the Bulldog women's basketball team as they sit at 9-8 on the year after splitting weekend games against Michigan Tech and Northern Michigan.

Just a year removed from a five-win season, the Bulldogs jumped out to a tremendous start on the season, winning six of their first seven games after starting the season 5-0. Heading into the Jan. 12-13 games, the Bulldogs were on a bit of a downslope, losers in six of their previous eight, sitting at just 2-5 in GLIAC play.

After falling to the 16th ranked Huskies 80-77 in a close game on Friday, Jan. 12, the Bulldogs responded with a 62-52 victory over a tough Northern Michigan unit, who sits just ahead of Ferris in the GLIAC standings. The Bulldogs have certainly found a

way to win games this year, now it's a matter of finding that consistency.

"Winning is a habit. Championship behaviors are habits. We don't have those habits quite yet, but we're close," Head Coach Kendra Faustin said. "We know on any given night we can beat anybody but also on any given night we can lose to anybody."



Kendra Faustin

The Bulldogs are fourth in the six-team conference with a 3-6 record in conference action, just behind Northern Michigan who fell to 4-5 in conference play with the loss on Saturday, Jan. 13.

The Bulldogs will now look to continue and find that consistency as they play out the remainder

of the season. With just more than 11 games left in the season, there is still plenty of time for the Bulldogs to start climbing the GLIAC standings as they set out to get some post-season action this year.

The Bulldogs biggest challenge in the final stretch of this season is finding that next level and taking the step. A program that has really struggled in recent years is finally on the verge of becoming a top team and this next month and a half is going to be huge.

"We have a lot to prove still. Are we better? Night and day, we've done some awesome things so far but that's not it for this group," Faustin said.

The Bulldogs return to action when they square off on the road against Purdue Northwest University on Thursday, Jan. 18, with tip-off set for 7:30 p.m.

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| Best Golf Course _____                  | Best Salon/Spa _____                       |
| Best Grocery Store _____                | Best Sandwich Shop _____                   |
| Best Gym/Health Club _____              | Best Tanning Salon _____                   |
| Best Hamburger _____                    | Best Tattoo Business & Body Piercing _____ |
| Best Happy Hour _____                   | Best Thrift/Vintage Shop _____             |

***It's time to vote for your favorite person, place or thing!***

To be eligible for the drawing you must fill out at least 75% of the poll. The Pioneer employees and families are not eligible to vote.  
All entries must be turned in or postmarked by Friday, March 23, 2018.

**Please fill out to enter our contest!**

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Daytime Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**Good Luck!**

FERRIS STATE  
**TORCH**

# OPINIONS

“Stick a fork in this opinion, Ferris, because it’s done.”  
- Rebecca Bostic - See below for story

Marley Tucker | Opinions Editor | marleyitucker@gmail.com

The Ferris State Torch is published on 27 Wednesdays throughout the academic year. This student-run newspaper is printed by The Pioneer Group.

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The Ferris State Torch welcomes comments on topics of interest to the general readership. Letters should not exceed 300 words in length and The Torch reserves the right to edit for length. Letters will not be edited for grammar, punctuation or spelling. The Torch will not print letters deemed to be libelous or obscene. All letters must be signed by their authors and include his or her phone number.

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To advertise with the Torch, contact Hannah Evo at the Pioneer Group: (231) 592-8391. hevo@pioneergroup.com

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## Chat with the chief Editor-in-Chief, Angela Graf

“Religion is like a penis. It’s fine to have one and it’s fine to be proud of it but please don’t whip it out in public and start waving it around... and PLEASE don’t try to shove it down my child’s throat.”

I admit that I don’t know who said this originally but I’ve seen it floating around social media for years and I would be hard-pressed to find a contemporary quote that I agree with more.

As a lapsed Catholic, I’m very open about my history with and feelings toward organized religion. These days I consider myself a loosely-spiritual Deist if we’re running around putting labels on things but I digress. Few things bother me quite as

much as people using religion to justify their horrible actions and hateful ideals but one of those things is when people try to use their personal religious views to oppress the rights of others.

Separation of church and state is an idea that has been alive since the 17th century, so why are we still struggling with it?

This simple phrase and even simpler principle lies at the root of nearly every socio-political argument alive today. Abortion, sexual education, gay rights, trans rights, gender roles, women’s rights, divorce...

You are entitled to your religious views. Your belief system is your right as a human being.

Your religious views are not my religious views. They should not dictate how I or anyone else lives their life.

Arguing that marriage equality is wrong because a 3,000-year-old book says so is not valid to anybody that doesn’t share your views.

It’s like me telling you that you shouldn’t eat beef because some people are Hindu, or that you have to circumcise your child because some people are Jewish. It just doesn’t hold water when you take away subjective religious reasoning.

If you think being trans is immoral, don’t transition. If you think abortions are wrong, don’t have one. If you think

that because you’re a woman, you should stay home and raise children, then go crazy. Just stop telling other people that they have to do the same.

In my opinion, eliminating religion from politics would do a lot of good—it would force people to think critically about modern day problems and it would decrease the extreme polarization that exists in social politics.

The United States is not a Christian nation, it is a secular governing body making laws and regulations for people of many faiths and belief systems.

Can we please try to keep it that way?

# A time out on takeout

### We should be able to get food however we want



Rebecca Bostic  
Copy Editor

I am paying 2,000 dollars—well, okay, my parents are—to eat here on campus. I have a silver meal plan, meaning I can eat at the Quad or the Rock whenever they are open.

A bonus to that was walking into my dorm on the first day of fall semester to find a Quad takeout box. Sweet! No more lunch rush anxiety for me! Or so I thought, anyway...

A while ago, I took on the role of room service extraordinaire for a friend who was bedridden due to a longboarding accident, meaning I was getting takeout food for him and myself around three times a day.

Every time I went in, I presented both of our IDs, explained the situation and went about my business.

Another friend attempted to get food on her account for herself and her suitemate who was unable to sit and eat due to her schedule for that day. There was at least a three-hour gap between the two times she went to the Quad. She was told that she couldn’t takeout food again because, apparently, the takeout box is only supposed to be used once a day per student. This was news to me.

Now, if you have made it all the way to the back of this newspaper and are properly reacting to this article, then you have the same face of disbelief my two friends and I did. We pay for our food, and I don’t think that this policy is fair. College students live extremely stressful and busy lives, and I should be allowed to use a take out box whenever I would like.

Don’t dangle a carrot in front of our faces and not expect us to try and utilize the takeout boxes to their full potential. We’re starving adults leading stressful lives and we want food however we can get it.

As told to my friends and I after a call to Dining Services on campus, the limit



Torch file photo

In fall of 2016, the Quad Cafe was feeding roughly 1,700 students for lunch. The takeout box program was expanded in fall of 2017 to compensate for the opening of North Hall.

on the takeout boxes is apparently to “cut down costs.” I don’t know what costs Dining Services thinks they’re trying to cut back on, but it definitely isn’t the two grand I’m paying to eat cafeteria food that is half a tier above what I choked down in high school. For everything we pay, we deserve better.

I would think that taking food from the

café would be cheaper for the university than gorging ourselves on buffet style foods. It’s easier to portion foods with a takeout box. Chew on that for a minute.

Stick a fork in this opinion, Ferris, because it’s done. I am sick and tired of rules that don’t benefit the consumer.



Cartoon by: Samuel McNeill | Cartoonist

# College, interrupted

*Being chronically ill in college requires help*



My stomach ached. I had not had anything but Gatorade for days but the pain persisted. I could barely open my eyes around the aching migraine I had. I was in my first class of the day but I was already thinking about skipping the following two and calling in sick at work.



Marley Tucker  
Opinions Editor

What did I do in this situation? I went to class and did my job. To compensate I slept the entire next day and went to the Emergency Room. It's always a gamble. I'm open about my challenges because they are shared by others just like me navigating their 20s in college.

For some context, a flare up of the illness I live with is like being dehydrated for two days, having your blood drawn, being hit in the head and staying up for more than 24 hours. I've had to stumble out of class so no one would see my hands shake or notice my skin blotch like a Rorschach test.

Having a chronic illness in college is tough. You have to shape your college plans around your health. Luckily there is a disabilities service office on campus that exists to help but a lot of people on campus don't know it exists.

On bad days when I stay home in pain, my bed feels like the eighth wonder of the world and having help that makes me feel less guilty about taking time off for my health is a win in my book.

I won't lie—it's hard to ask for

help. The reality is that your body doesn't care what you think. Illness or injury can strike at any time and when you least expect it. Perhaps there are some lessons in my experience. To that end, I have some advice.

The best time to ask for help is as early as possible in the semester—it's easier to have accommodations on the books in case you need them versus not having them at all.

Find a doctor in the area and get your medical records in place. You'd be surprised at how many people function around you that have some sort of invisible injury or illness. Our differences matter and there is help for those that need it. I have never encountered an instructor who was not understanding about my situation.

Self-advocating is the name of the game when you have to even the playing field. The moral of the story is that asking for help to live your best life is extremely important. Just because we are young doesn't mean we are invincible.

If you find yourself in a situation where you need accommodations in some way on campus, visit the Educational Counseling and Disabilities Services office in Starr 313.

# WANTED

## EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Ferris State Torch

### 2018-19 SCHOOL YEAR:

We are seeking an organized student (enrolled in at least six credit hours) for the Editor-in-Chief position during the 2018-19 school year. Candidates must write well, possess excellent leadership skills and be prepared to work the entire school year. Candidates should be familiar with printed and digital publishing techniques. Qualified students can receive competitive wages for up to 20 hours per week. Ability to work and train in April and August of 2018 is necessary. Prior journalism experience or training desired.

### APPLICANTS NEED TO SUBMIT:

- Resume
- One-page (typed) essay answering the following:
  - >> Why do I want to be Editor-in-Chief?
  - >> What should be the goals of a student-run newspaper?
  - >> How will I, as Editor-in-Chief, ensure that the newspaper reaches its goals?
- Copies of articles or other written work
- At least two references (recommendation letters not required)

### SEND RESUME, ESSAY AND CLIPPINGS TO:

Steve Fox at [stevenfox@ferris.edu](mailto:stevenfox@ferris.edu)

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