



News page 4
Orange is the New Black author comes to Ferris



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TORCH

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Lifestyles page 7
Students create new a capella RSO, Acaholics



**BEST
IN THE
LAAND**

see page 10 for story

5,218 rushing yards



NEWS

Ferris State Torch

News Editor

Devin Anderson

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"I've learned to cherish life more."

- James Chappell

See below for story

Rolling in style

Wheelchair basketball event breaks disability stereotypes

Mari Ann Loucks
Ferris State Torch

Ferris has built a strong athletic reputation already this year, but asking our athletes to compete in wheelchairs is another game entirely.

The Ferris State basketball teams played the Grand Rapids Pacers wheelchair basketball team last weekend at Wink Arena to raise awareness for those with disabilities and to break the stereotypes surrounding disabilities in sports.

All of the players, including Ferris players, played in wheelchairs. The Ferris team put up a good fight, but was ultimately bested by the Pacers.

James Chappell, a criminal justice senior at Ferris, played in the basketball game for the second time.

"Playing in a wheelchair is significantly more difficult than playing without it. After playing in the games, I have learned to have a different outlook on life because the Pacers are very active, very positive, and just having fun playing basketball. They are never down on themselves, and they taught me to be more positive."

Julie Alexander, an educational counselor at Ferris' office of Educational Counseling & Disabilities Services said the game is meant to show students that individuals with disabilities are just like anyone else.

"The goal is to challenge the

stereotype that people with physical disabilities cannot play sports, be active or live fulfilling lives," Alexander said. "These players are quite athletic despite the fact that they do not run up and down the court. The Grand Rapids Pacers seem to have a great time when they play and they will tease and trash talk just as any athletes will."

This is the fourth year that Ferris has held the wheelchair basketball game. This is the only sporting event at Ferris that focuses on the inclusion of people with disabilities.

"I appreciate those guys for being around and telling their stories," Chappell said. "I was in awe from some of the things they said that they've been through. I've learned to cherish life more. I really appreciate them coming out and playing with us."

"It is often surprising to people how much athletic ability is required for wheelchair basketball and how enjoyable it is to watch," said Alexander.

Raffle tickets were sold at the game, raising \$100 for a scholarship for a student with a disability through the office of Educational Counseling & Disabilities Services.

"We wanted to show people that even if you have a disability you can still be active," Chappell said. "You can cherish the stuff you do have because some people don't have that. Just be the best you can be and be grateful."



Photo by: Katie Tobak | Photographer

Ferris State basketball's James Chappell looks for an open lane at last week's wheelchair basketball event.

Science on tap

Ferris offers degree concentration in beer making

Kip Biby
Ferris State Torch

Craft beer enthusiasts at Ferris have something to look forward to this year as the industrial chemistry program now offers fermentation science as a degree concentration.

Students in this program will take classes along with industrial chemistry major courses such as fermentation chemistry, fermentation analysis, beverage management and principles of food science. Ferris currently

offers industrial chemistry as an associate degree, but chemistry professor Mark Thomson is in the process of expanding the program to a bachelor degree.

"I'm really excited about the fermentation science program because it builds on a long history that Ferris has had in industrial chemistry," said Thomson, who has brewed beer at home for more than 30 years. "We've been doing industrial chemistry at the associate's level for more than 60 years."

Ferris environmental biology junior Symon Cronk recently

conducted research with Thomson. They measured pH in every stage of the brewing process and added specific amounts of calcium carbonate to batches.

"To learn this stuff through a chemistry perspective was pretty neat," Cronk said.

Students not in the fermentation science program who are interested in the science behind fermentation in wine, cheese and bread are not left without the opportunity learn. For years, Dr. Michael Ryan

See Beer
on page 3



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Skateboarder runs into car, student hit by car

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

Devin Anderson
News Editor

Bumper cars

Oct. 6, 3:35 p.m., officers responded to a two-car accident in Lot 1.

Getting towed

Oct. 8, 12:30 p.m., a vehicle in Lot 68 was impounded for having multiple unpaid tickets.

Getting rowdy in Hallisy

Oct. 8, 7:40 p.m., officers responded to a disorderly subject complaint in Hallisy Hall. The subject was referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

Lake Orion theft

Oct. 9, 11:30 a.m., officers assisted Lake Orion police with an investigation involving theft from their jurisdiction. A Ferris student was identified and interviewed.

Skater hits stopped car, ouch

Oct. 9, 11:40 a.m., officers responded to a vehicle and skateboarder crash on Campus Drive. The skateboarder was being towed by a bicycle. When the bicycle swerved around a stopped vehicle, the skateboarder did not and hit the vehicle's fender. Both the cyclist and skateboarder were gone upon officers' arrival.

That smelly smell

Oct. 9, 3:25 p.m., officers as-

sisted McNerney Hall staff with a marijuana complaint. The incident was handled by hall staff.

The bash brothers

Oct. 9, 11:20 p.m., officers investigated two disorderly subjects outside of Clark Hall. The two were arguing loudly outside and were separated.

Party hardy

Oct. 10, 12:50 a.m., officers assisted the city police in responding to a large party on Ives Avenue.

I just came to say hello...

Oct. 10, 2:25 p.m., officers responded to a harassment complaint in Brophy Hall, where a female student reported unwanted texts. The male subject was advised to end communication.

Stop it like it's hot

Oct. 11, 4 p.m., officers performed a traffic stop on State Street for disregarding a traffic control sign. The driver of the vehicle was ticketed for driving on

a suspended license.

Don't tweet me bro

Oct. 12, 12:15 p.m., officers investigated the complaint of a threat via social media. A subject was identified and referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

Gassy encounters

Oct. 12, 11:10 p.m., officers discovered a vehicle with a leaking gas tank in Lot 3. The owner removed the vehicle from campus.

Remember middle school?

Oct. 14, 1:35 a.m., a student pulled the fire alarm in Travis Hall. There was no fire and the student could not be located.

Suspended license

Oct. 14, 4:50 a.m., officers performed a traffic stop on 215th Avenue. The driver of the vehicle had a suspended license and was ticketed.

Student hit by car

Oct. 14, 12:48 p.m., officers assisted the city police with a car accident on Ferris Drive. A pedestrian crossed the street without paying attention, was hit by a car and crashed through the windshield. He was transported to the hospital and ticketed.

DPS issued 305 parking and traffic violations between Oct. 9 and Oct. 15 totalling \$5,250.



BEER from page 2 Fermentation a new concentration at Ferris

has organized a biology class in Italy each summer, in which students witness the production of food and drink.

"The goal of the course is to provide some scientific background so that students understand such things as making wine and cheese," Ryan said.

This class also examines the anatomy and physiology of taste and smell. This class fulfills a scientific understanding credit. More information on Ryan's study abroad can be found at ferris.edu/international/studyabroad.

Thomson is also involved in the Big Rapids Area Master Mashers (BAMM), a beer-making club that regularly meets at Cranker's Brewery to discuss and share their homebrewed beer. BAMM is encouraging student brewers and industrial chemistry students to join. BAMM can be found on Facebook.



Photo by: Devin Anderson | News Editor

Rick Marek, of the Big Rapids Area Master Mashers, stirs a batch of home-brewed rye pale ale last weekend at BAMM's "Learn How to Brew" event at Cranker's Brewery.

2015 DECEMBER COMMENCEMENT

College	Contact	Phone #	Location
Health Professions	Richelle Williams	(231) 591-2263	VFS 210
Arts & Sciences	Barb Hampel	(231) 591-3660	ASC 3052
Business (On/Off campus undergrad. students)	Carri Griffis	(231) 591-2493	BUS 200
Business (graduate students)	Shannon Yost	(231) 591-2168	BUS 200
Education & Human Services	Jacee Potts	(231) 591-2700	BIS 604
Engineering & Technology	Deb Ducat	(231) 591-2961	JHN 200

Note: You must satisfy all of your degree requirements before you officially graduate and receive your diploma.

Caps and Gowns may be purchased at the Grad Fair on November 5th, 11:00 am – 4:00pm in the University Center – Multi Purpose Rooms or starting November 5th – December 17th at the Ferris State University Bookstore (located in the University Center, 805 Campus Drive, Big Rapids MI 49307).

Tickets are required for all ceremonies. All students planning on participating in a ceremony will receive (7) seven tickets. Electronic tickets will be available for students to access/print starting November 5, 2015. Extra tickets are not distributed and lost tickets will not be replaced.

Commencement Program – Graduates must complete their online graduation application by **Friday, October 16, 2015 for their names to appear in the Fall 2015 Commencement Programs** or their name will not appear in the Commencement Program. In order to have the program printed and back in time for the ceremonies we have to adhere to these deadlines. Contact your college's Commencement Coordinator if you have any questions.

TORCH NEWS BRIEFS

Devin Anderson
News Editor

Andrew Huang Concert

Musician Andrew Huang will perform at Ferris at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 22, in University Center room 202. Huang is known for his video content and blending many genres of music. This Entertainment Unlimited-coordinated event is free to attend.

History presentation by Dr. Christian Peterson

As a part of the history department's Passion for the Past Series, history professor Christian Peterson will speak at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, Oct. 26, in University Center room 202. Students can hear about historical topics and their importance while enjoying pizza and soda.

Interactive theater performance

The Social Work Association will host an event about current social issues by a North Carolina theater group called Theater Delta at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 29, in University Center room 202. The group will perform and interact with the audience, discussing racism and sexism.

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Ferris State Torch Corrections

On page 1 of last week's issue,
Astrology should have read Astronomy

Corrections can be submitted through email at
fsutorcheditor@gmail.com or by calling 231-591-5978

Saturday December 19, 2015

Ewigleben Sport Complex
(Wink Arena)

Saturday, December 19

Time	College
10:00 am	College of Art & Sciences College of Education & Human Services College of Engineering and Technology
1:30 pm	College of Business College of Health Professions

For special accommodations or for more information regarding the Commencement ceremony, please visit the Commencement website www.ferris.edu/commencement or call (231) 591-3803.





Photo by: Katie Tobak | Photographer

Lucas Gillis engages with Kerman in a Q&A after her talk at the University Center.

Students engage with Piper Kerman

“Orange Is the New Black” author speaks at Ferris

Hailey Klingel
Lifestyles Editor

Ferris students connected with Piper Kerman Wednesday night during her speech about her life before, during and after the year she spent in prison.

The University Center Ball-

room was packed as Kerman, author of the book-turned-Emmy-award-winning Netflix series “Orange Is the New Black,” shared her experiences. She was brought to campus by Ferris communications professor Neil Patten as part of this year’s Arts & Lecture series.

Prominent themes of Ker-



Photo by: Katie Tobak | Photographer

Kerman speaks to students about the year she spent experiencing the inequalities in the United States prison system.

man’s speech were the racial, social and gender inequalities affecting the prison system—specifically women in prison.

“The experience of incarceration is a deeply traumatic and awful experience,” Kerman said. “I was so lucky to only be in prison for one year. There are other women who commit-

ted comparable crimes who were doing a lot more time.”

After her lecture, Kerman gave students the chance to engage in an open Q&A session. She answered questions about the differences between the book and the show and about life in prison. Kerman made sure to note that the show is not a bi-

opic, but she does support how accurately it addresses many real issues in women’s prisons.

After the Q&A, students lined up to get their copies of “Orange Is the New Black” signed and meet Kerman.

Printing in progress

Graphic media students settle into new office



Photo by: Angela Graf | Reporter

Professor Pat Klarecki assists graphic media management students Harold Burton and Autumn Brooks in the print lab.

Angela Graf

Ferris State Torch

Last summer, the graphic media management (GMAN) program at Ferris changed the way its students learn entirely with a brand new office.

GMAN recently renovated and moved into the music industry management program’s old office space in Business Building room 124. The office is now equipped with brand new printing equipment, including a FujiFilm Acuity LED 1600 Inkjet Printer valued at \$120,000 dollars.

The printer is being used by Ferris for free as part of a consignment agreement with FujiFilm and can print on anything up to 63 inches wide and a half inch thick. Its uses in-

clude printing bumper stickers, car wraps and plastic signs; it can even print on aluminum.

The lab equipment is new to professors and students alike, presenting them with a learning curve. According to GMAN professor Pat Klarecki, experience with the new technology will definitely make students seem more attractive to prospective employers, and with the field growing so rapidly this gives Ferris graduates a competitive advantage.

“The companies that hire our graduates are like, ‘this is exactly what we need,’” said Klarecki. “The problem for them is that there are six to eight of them for every one of our graduates. So we are really trying to showcase and get people excited about the program so that we can get students in here.”

When it’s said that the field is growing rapidly, this is not an exaggeration. The Bureau of Labor Statistics reports 54.3% of the printing industry workforce is above the age of 45, so with a rising rate of retirement, graphic media jobs are becoming more available to graduates.

A key aspect of the GMAN program is a mandatory internship for all upperclassmen in the program. GMAN senior Samantha Hillock interned this past summer at Phillips Printing in Nashville, Tenn.

See **Printing**
on page 5

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Haunted house to scare in Paris

Circle K International hosts Halloween fundraiser



Photo by: Nick Vander Wulp | Reporter
Caleb Schultz will rev up a chainsaw during Circle K International's haunted house project next weekend and on Halloween.

Devin Anderson
News Editor
Nick Vander Wulp
Ferris State Torch

Members of Ferris' Circle K International group will get spooky at the fish hatchery in Paris this weekend and next weekend. The Circle K International Haunted Fish Hatchery will be open on Oct. 23, 24, 29 and 30 from 7 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. and Halloween from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Proceeds from the event will fund Circle K International activities including donations to the Salvation Army's Angel Tree program and area foster children through the Department of Human Services. "The big goal is to get a massive force of people doing stuff to help kids," said Tiffany Newman Circle K International vice president. Split into two levels, the first level of the fish hatchery is for younger thrill seekers. The second level is for those looking for those more adventurous souls looking to add

some horror to their evening. Circle K International President and Ferris plastics engineering junior Chris Buse will play a clown in the Circle K's "clown room." "I really like the clown room," Buse said. "It's because you can't see, you can't hear and the clowns get you. Nobody seems to like clowns, so that one gets a lot of people." Every year, the group researches new horror movies for inspiration. According to Newman, there have been haunted houses at the fish hatchery for years and the building itself is always part of the fun. "It's a giant, empty, terrifying cement building," Newman said. "Even high schoolers will sometimes only do the first floor. It's a creepy place." Students who bring a canned food item to donate will receive a dollar off the \$5 ticket price.



Tiffany Newman

Your words have power

LGBT student group to organize inclusive speech campaign



Photo by: Kip Biby | Reporter

Members of the Advocacy and Education for Gender Identity and Sexuality organization plan for a future of Ferris inclusivity at a group meeting.

Kip Biby
Ferris State Torch

A new student organization for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered student support is sounding off with a campaign called Your Words Have Power. Advocacy and Education for Gender Identity and Sexuality (AEGIS) received registered student organization status last April. "We're here to bridge the gap between the LGBT community and the rest of campus," said AEGIS president and Ferris social work freshman Connor McGahan. Your Words Have Power will continue to spread the AEGIS message, beginning with an event about inclusive language and how to make a difference in the community at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 28th, in IRC 115. AEGIS is collaborating with the Student Michigan Education Association to organize the discussion-based event. Inclusive language is very important to the group's education initiatives. They teach that people should ask if they are

not sure of what pronoun someone prefers to be referred as. "Getting misgendered sucks," said Lucas Gillis, AEGIS's treasurer. "It is better to ask than to assume and ruin someone's day," said Angelica Treu, a junior in the psychology program and the community service chairwoman for AEGIS. AEGIS is also in the process of producing videos about the language used on campus and how it can affect other students negatively. Also included in the campaign will be a speaker series. AEGIS will have a speaker come in to talk about inclusive language relating to various populations every other month starting in November. The group is actively looking to other student organizations and departments for collaboration. The student group is made up of seven active members and is actively seeking new recruits. Students interested in joining AEGIS can attend meetings at 5 p.m. on Thursdays in University Center room 124.



PRINTING from page 4

Graphic media students enjoy state of the art new office

"When I first came to the program we really didn't have any equipment, just the digital press," Hillock said. "It's really nice because I did my internship last summer and I had some knowledge about it coming back." Klarecki said the internship is imperative to the program as a whole, providing hands-on experience for the students outside of the classroom, while also bringing something unique to lectures. "[An internship] is a must," Klarecki said. "It really sets them up, and it allows for some very good discussions in our classes because they're bringing up real live things. So when we bring it up we sometimes pull that from the students and just ask, 'hey, you were at this company, what were they doing?' in the middle of a lecture." Despite the excitement of having a new lab to work in, there are concerns about the number of students enrolling in the program. Only having two freshmen this year, recruiting high school students has become a must. "We're doing many open houses," said Conati. "There are three this week and then we have one next week. We invited a lot of high schools and we're hoping that we get a lot of results next year." GMAN junior Harold Burton was originally referred to Ferris while attending a career center, studying a field similar to GMAN. Working with a lot of older machinery while there,

he believes that seeing more up to date gear will catch the eyes of prospective students. "The tech center that I went to also had a lot of old stuff," Burton said. "So if I were in those shoes now and I were to come in here and see all this newer, more modern equipment I would definitely be drawn to it." Until last year, Ferris was a little outdated in the technology aspect of print media production themselves. GMAN major Erin Deater doesn't think that work-

ing with the old equipment was necessarily a bad thing though. "There were kind of pros and cons to it because you get experience on different kinds of things," she said. "But it was also really antiquated and from probably before I was born. All the new stuff is obviously up to date and I think it gives you a better perspective on what you might be using in the future, whereas something we used to have before you wouldn't see."

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LIFESTYLES

Ferris State Torch

Lifestyles Editor
Hailey Klingel
klingeh@ferris.edu

"I just really want to make a legacy here at Ferris."

- Tyler Karum

See page 7 for story



Photo by: Katie Tobak | Photographer

Ferris students Alicia Adams and Jimmiaya Dixon co-host open mic night.



Photo by: Katie Tobak | Photographer

Ferris optometry student Adrian Wright has the chance to show off his rap skills every week at Cleopatra's open mic night.

Get your voice heard

Cody Burkhard
Ferris State Torch

Every Tuesday night, people are given a chance to put their talents on display and get their voices heard at Cleopatra's Hookah Lounge in Big Rapids. This is open mic night.

Open mic night started as a venue for poetry and spoken word but has since expanded to all forms of spoken and instrumental art, including poet-

ry, spoken word, rap/hip-hop and various other music genres.

Open mic night crowd favorite and Chicago native E-Ski compared the event to the famous New York City music club CBGB, where bands such as the Ramones and Talking Heads got their start.

"This is the liveliest place in town," said E-Ski. "This is the spot for spoken word and hip hop in Michigan. I've been in spoken word joints all over, but

there's something special happening here. You can pay 10 dollars to get into a place like this in Chicago and still not see the same talent that you do here for free. It's a lot like CBGB."

Bands become great due in part to the places they play, according to E-Ski.

"All those great bands that played there weren't always great," said E-Ski. "They be-

See [Open Mic](#) on page 8

HALLOWEEN IN BR AND GR

Fall and haunted activities during the month of October

Nick Vander Wulp
Ferris State Torch

Halloween is right around the corner, and in the next few weeks, some spooky events are coming back to life.

Ferris State students who are looking for something sinister around this Hallows' Eve have a few options in Big Rapids and Grand Rapids.

Haunted Corn Maze
Open Fridays from 8 p.m. to 10:30 p.m., Saturdays from noon to 10:30 p.m., and Sundays from 2 p.m.

to 5 p.m. at the Four Green Fields Farm near Big Rapids.

Lingering spirits are looking to spook the townsfolk and students of Big Rapids on the weekends at Four Green Fields Farm. Lurking inside the maze will be a few of Ferris State's sports teams awaiting new victims. The women's rugby team will be frightening maze goers on Friday, Oct. 23. Men's basketball will be there Saturday, Oct. 24. Men's tennis will be terrifying those brave enough to venture in on Friday, Oct. 30. Halloween night will be haunted by

the Charity Baptist Youth Group from Paris. Half of the money raised goes to support the respective groups on those nights.

Admission is \$3 for the daytime maze, which has three levels of difficulty. The haunted maze is \$4.

Skeleton Skurry 5k
The race starts at 3 p.m.

Halloween day at Hemlock Park in Big Rapids. Tarsal, metatarsal, cuboid and calcaneus bones will be hitting the pavement for the annual Skeleton Skurry at Hemlock Park. Hosted by the Big

Rapids Pioneer, all of the money raised goes to United Way to help local families. There will also be a costume contest. Packet pick-up and race day registration are from 1:30 to 2:45 p.m. at the Hemlock Park pavilion. Snacks, drinks and restrooms will be at available.

Pre-register at [<http://news.pioneergr.com/big-rapidsnews/skeleton5k/>].

Registration is \$30 online or the day of the race.

See [Halloween](#) on page 8



Addicted to a capella

Andrea Lenhart
Ferris State Torch

Acoholics became a registered student organization (RSO) this fall to spread their love for a capella music around Ferris.

A capella is a form of music that involves using only voices for lyrics and instruments.

"It can be really challenging at first because we're using our voices as every instrument, but it's so much fun," psychology senior Darcy Deckard and Acoholics president said.

Due to hard work from the executive board, Acoholics has already reached 25 members.

"When I tell people about it, their first reaction is usually something about Pitch Perfect, and that's something that we are trying to be like with competitions," said Brooke Ferris, an early childhood education junior.

According to criminal justice junior and Acoholics vice president Tyler Karum, social media and word of mouth were a huge help for getting a good turnout for the audition process.



Darcy Deckard

"I just really want to make a legacy here at Ferris," said Karum.

"I know everyone loves music and I think this is a start to something great."

Deckard's favorite part so far is getting to know everyone in the group. "I know that I wouldn't have half the friends I do now if I didn't start this organization," said Deckard. "I love music, and I just want everyone else to feel how I feel when I listen to music."

According to Karum, Acoholics does more than sing. Acoholics



Photo by: Chris Martin | Photographer

Ferris criminal justice junior and Acoholics vice president Tyler Karum practices his capella skills to Acoholics members.

does something called Acabonding, where the group tries to hang out and bond outside of rehearsals to create a close knit feeling.

Karum came up with the RSO's name by combing a

capella and the term "holic" to create something that means addicted to a capella.

"If you're really into music, just give it a shot and come out to an audition," said Ferris.

Additions will typically be held once at the beginning of each semester, but it being a new organization, they are willing to work out details.

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Photo by: Aubrey Kemme | Photographer

Lance Carpenter rocks The Gate at Country Bash 2.0 last Friday, which was organized and hosted by Ferris MIMA students. The Dani Jamerson band opened for Carpenter. Both artists are Michigan natives.



HALLOWEEN from page 6

Big Rapids and Grand Rapids offer Halloween activities

Halloween on Ionia Opens at 3 p.m. Halloween day and goes until midnight.

Halloween on Ionia in Grand Rapids is for the most dedicated of deviants.

Creativity will be rewarded to three costume contest winners. First prize winner will take home

\$3,000 cash, second prize will win \$1,500 and third prize will get \$500. You must be present in the flesh to win. Featuring hellishly heated tents from restaurants and bars located on Ionia Street between Fulton Street and Oakes Street, there will be plenty to eat and drink

along with live entertainment.

Michigan craft beer will be on tap featuring over 15 different brews for the hop heads.

Tickets can be purchased from www.halloweenonia.com for \$15 or a limited number at The Gate on Halloween for \$20. Attendees must be 21+.



OPEN MIC from page 6

Cleopatra's hosts weekly open mic night

came great at CBGB because they had a place they could go to every week and perfect their craft. Some of these people performing at Cleopatra's will make it in their art. We just don't know who yet. This is where they get their start."

The founder and co-host of the event is Ferris hospitality management senior Alicia Adams, or Cosmic Owl.

"The premise of open mic night is for the local community to have a place to be heard and feel welcome and to have a venue to express themselves artistically," said Adams.

Adams and her co-host accounting senior Jimmiaya Dixon, or Misunderstood Huntress, liven the event with their soulful, rebellious attitudes.

Since it began two years ago, open mic night has grown from a small gathering to the place to be on a Tuesday night.

Anyone can perform at open mic night by signing up when he or she gets there. But people have a great time simply going in with friends and experiencing the event.

International student and Ferris automotive management sophomore Poorvak Patel said he's been enjoying the open mic

nights since he's been at Ferris.

"All I do is go to classes," Patel said. "I don't have many friends here in America outside those I know in academics, but I like coming to this place because of the music and accepting culture. I get a chance to see another side of American culture. The people here are great and I have a good time."

Open mic night has a simple format. People get called up in the order they signed up and are allowed to do what they do, whether it is poetry, music or even the occasional comedy act.

But beware of the "clappers." There are clappers located at every table and if someone doesn't like what is being said, then that person uses the clapper.

Three clappers and you're out.

Although the clappers are there, they hardly get used. They are mainly used when someone gets on the mic and says blatantly offensive things. Most people enjoy whatever is put out there on the mic.

Whether you have poetry, music or have nothing better to do on a Tuesday night, visit Cleopatra's Hookah Lounge next to Save-A-Lot on Northland Drive. Open mic night starts at 9 p.m. and lasts until 11 p.m.

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ZTA thinks **PINK**

Jen Corrie
Ferris State Torch

It seems like everyone knows someone whose had some type of cancer and the battle to defeat it has continued on for years.

Last week, Zeta Tau Alpha (ZTA) dedicated their time to raise funds and awareness for breast cancer efforts during their Think Pink Week.

Healthcare systems administration junior Erin Crummel was the coordinator for Think Pink Week.

"I just started it this year," Crummel said. "Hopefully it will go again next year since we've been successful so far."

Crummel said she heard about other campuses hosting a successful Think Pink Week so she started one here at Ferris.

"It turns out, if you do a whole week of events, you get a better turnout, eventually raising more money we put towards our cause," Crummel said.

Think Pink Week kicked off on Monday with ZTA members passing out pink ribbons on campus and talking about their philanthropy, which is focused on breast cancer ed-

ucation and awareness. Next was the Tuesday Panera Bread fundraiser, where community members and students could bring in event flyers and have 20 percent of the proceeds go to ZTA's philanthropy.

"So far they've gone really well," political science senior and ZTA member Jamie Richardson said. "A lot of people showed up to Panera, so that's really great.

A lot of people are posting pictures on our event wall."

Richardson said breast cancer has affected her life indirectly through the parents of her close friends from high school.

"Right after graduation, three of their moms were diagnosed with breast cancer," Richardson said. "So that affected me because I was close with those friends."

Crummel's life has also been impacted by the disease.

"My grandma is a survivor of breast cancer, but it's also genetic, so my mom might get it or I might get it, but we

don't know," said Crummel. "So it's very close to my heart."

Wednesday was the Pie a ZTA event, where you could donate a dollar to smash a pie in the face of a ZTA.

Thursday was a pumpkin smash, and Friday passersby in the IRC wrote down a loved one who has been affected by breast cancer on a heart, which they could purchase to help donate to the cause.

The week concluded with a dodge ball tournament on Saturday.

In total, Think Pink Week raised over \$1,000.



Jamie Richardson



Photo by: Katie Tobak | Photographer

ZTA members allow Ferris students to smash pies in their faces for \$1.00.



Photo by: Aubrey Kemme | Photographer

Members of Zeta Tau Alpha pose in the Quad during Think Pink Week 2015.



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SPORTS

Ferris State Torch

Sports Editor
Marshall Scheldt
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"I like where our team is right now."

Bob Daniels
See below for story

Vander Laan makes history



Photo by: Aubrey Kemme | Photographer

Head Coach Tony Annese hands off a game ball to quarterback Jason Vander Laan after his 53-yard touchdown run pushed him past the previous record for rushing yards at the quarterback position. Vander Laan salutes the home crowd as the new record holder, currently standing at 5,218 rushing yards with at least four games left to play.

Marshall Scheldt
Sports Editor

Ferris State quarterback Jason Vander Laan can now call himself the greatest running quarterback in the history of college football.

The humble, 6-foot-4-inch senior from Frankfort, Ill. would probably never say those words though. With a 53-yard touchdown run against Ohio Dominican last weekend, Vander Laan became the all-time leading rushing quarterback at any division of college football.

In an interview with ESPN, which aired on SportsCenter last Saturday night, Vander Laan said, "I've had a phenomenal offensive line all four years here and I'm just blessed to have that. With the system that we run and the O-line that we have up front along with the O-line coach, we've always been able to handle teams up front."

With the run, Vander Laan surpassed Shawn Graves of Wofford College, who previously held the record with 5,128 rushing yards. The touchdown also put the Bulldogs up 14-7 in a game that they would eventually win 38-17.

Vander Laan ran for 161 yards in the game, bringing

his grand total to 5,218 total yards rushing. The surprising thing about Vander Laan, though, is that he doesn't do all of his work on the ground.

The FSU quarterback has also thrown for 7,137 yards in his time as a Bulldog. According to ESPN, he has accounted for seven miles of offense with 12,665 total yards.

The crazy thing about this record, is that Vander Laan still has so much time to distance himself between him and Graves as the Bulldogs still have four regular season games to go.

One might think that with the



Jake Lampman

quarterback rushing for that much yardage that the running backs on the team might not be getting any carries. Although Vander Laan does receive most of the carries on the ground for Ferris State, he still values his running backs.

"Those guys are some of the most humble guys on our team, and with the quarterback running it's kind of nice; I gain an

extra blocker. So for them, it kind of stinks because it does take away from some of their carries, but those guys are all for the team and Coach Annese has done a great job of imple-

"We love watching our teammates succeed."

Jake Lampman

menting a team atmosphere on our team. Everyone is humble and we all like blocking for each other," said Vander Laan.

After Vander Laan's historic touchdown run, the game was paused and Head Coach Tony Annese gave Vander Laan the game ball. Vander Laan held the ball up in the air, gave a nod to the crowd, then got right back to business.

"I wasn't 100 percent sure that I got it on that run, but I was pretty certain. As soon as I turned around I had eight or nine guys running to congratulate me and all of the guys were jumping on top of me, so that was awesome," said Vander Laan.

The FSU quarterback wasn't

the only person to enjoy the record, in a post-game press conference, senior wide receiver Jake Lampman said, "We love watching our teammates succeed. And for our quarter-

back, our leader, to get an award like that, I think it definitely sparks everyone."

Vander Laan received a large amount of national attention before and following the game. He was mentioned on ESPN's College GameDay before the game and was also featured on SportsCenter where he was interviewed over the phone by ESPN reporter Hakem Dermish and was featured on the scrolling ticker on ESPN.

Vander Laan set the record against an Ohio Dominican team that knocked the Bulldogs out of the playoffs last season. That was just one more game in a string of tough games for Ferris State.

Ferris State will take on the No. 17 ranked Michigan Tech Huskies at 12:04 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 24 at Top Taggart Field in Big Rapids.

Badgers in Big Rapids

Beau Jensen
Ferris State Torch

The Ferris State hockey team will host the Badgers of Wisconsin this weekend in what will surely be an exciting home contest.

Ferris State opened up their home play last weekend when they faced the Huskies of Michigan Tech. In the first matchup of the weekend, the Huskies put the Bulldogs away early, scoring four goals before the Bulldogs could notch one, ultimately cementing a 5-1 Husky victory.

The next night sang a different song for the boys in crimson, as the Bulldogs gained their first victory of the season when they scored two goals in the second period and one in the third to bring them to a 3-2 home win.

The Bulldogs now hold a 1-2-1 record overall and a 1-1 conference record. In what will be the first time the Badgers will ever make a trip to Big Rapids, the Bulldogs will host Wisconsin in a two-game weekend se-

See **Hockey**
on page 13

Soccer sets records

Cody Burkhard
Ferris State Torch

The Ferris State Women's Soccer Team has had a quietly historic season this year.

On a weekend where senior Jason Vander Laan broke the NCAA record for career rushing yards for a quarterback, the women's soccer team may have been overlooked.

The LadyBulldogs have broken several school records this year.

With an overall record of 12-3-1, this year's Ferris soccer team has the most wins in a season and the best record through 16 games in school history.

The Bulldogs had a school record seven-game win streak broken by a tie against Tiffin in double overtime. The unbeaten streak extended to 12 before Ferris State lost to Northern Michigan in another overtime game this weekend 1-0. It is the only loss for the Bulldogs since the second game of the season.

They tied the school record for consecutive shutouts early in

See **Soccer**
on page 12

Fantasy Football

This week, having two quarterbacks worked in my favor. Although my dual QBs put up 41 points, Vander Laan almost matched it with 38 points of his own.

The Bulldogs' defense notched five sacks and three forced fumbles, which outscored my Buffalo Bills' defense by eight points. However, I was able to make my point advantage back at the running back position where the Atlanta Falcons' back, Devonta Freeman, got 21 more points than any Ferris running back.

One thing about Freeman, though, is that he can't say he's the all-time leading rushing quarterback in college football history like Vander Laan can. Freeman has been a complete animal for the Falcons and is the top running back in fantasy football so far this season.

With this win, my record improves to 2-4 against the Dawgs. Let's see what we can do next week. Here's my roster.

QB1: Matt Stafford, Detroit Lions

After an impressive outing last week against the Bears, I think Stafford and his offensive coordinator are finally



Marshall Scheldt
Sports Editor

getting on the same page. Stafford also has a 6-foot-5-inch security blanket named Calvin Johnson to help him.

QB2: Kirk Cousins, Washington Redskins:

This Holland native has been on-and-off all season long. Look for him to be on against Tampa Bay this Sunday.

RB: Chris Ivory, New York Jets:

Ivory has been a workhorse for the Jets lately. I think he'll be the only constant in the Jets' offense this week as they take on the New England Patriots.

WR1: Golden Tate, Detroit Lions:

I'm going to try to double dip twice this week with my wide-receivers so it's going to be all or nothing here. Tate was one of Matt Stafford's favorite targets last week and with a win last week, the Lions might actually be finding something with their offense.

WR2: Pierre Garcon, Washington Redskins:

Garcon is one of Kirk Cousins' favorite receivers. The Tampa Bay defense is pretty weak, so I think that Garcon will catch a touchdown or two this weekend.

FLEX: Jimmy Graham, Seattle Seahawks:

After being the best tight end in the league last year, Graham has been nearly non-existent after being traded to Seattle. The Seahawks play the 49ers this Thursday, and for some reason Seattle always shows up against San Francisco. I think Jimmy Graham will show up as well.

D/ST: Buffalo Bills:

They may have let me down last week, but the Bills play the Jaguars in London on Sunday morning. I think they'll bounce back big against a young Jaguars offense.

K: Sebastian Janikowski, Oakland Raiders:

This guy is getting up there in terms of age, but his leg is still one of the strongest in the game. He still has some 50+ yard field goals left in the tank.

Team Torch Box Score			
Starters			
POSITION	PLAYER	Stats	PTS
QB	Jay Cutler, Chicago Bears	365 yards, 1 TD, 1 INT	21
RB	Aaron Rodgers, Green Bay Packers	269 total yards, 2 TD	20
WR1	Devonta Freeman, Atlanta Falcons	156 total yards, 2 TD	28
WR2	Larry Fitzgerald, Arizona Cardinals	8 receptions, 93 yards	10
FLEX	Brandon Marshall, New York Jets	7 receptions, 111 yards, 1 TD	16
D/ST	Buffalo Bills	34 pts allowed	3
K	Dustin Hopkins, Washington Redskins	2 FG, 2 XP made	10
Total			105
Ferris State Box Score			
Starters			
POSITION	PLAYER	Stats	PTS
QB	Jason Vander Laan	320 total yards, 3 TD	38
RB	Robert Thomas	11 yards, 1 TD	7
WR1	Shakue Sanders	18 yards, 1 TD	7
WR2	Jake Lampman	37 total yards, 1 TD	10
FLEX	Jahaan Brown	47 rush yards, 45 yards receiving, 1 fumble	6
D/ST	Ferris State	17 pts allowed, 5 sacks, 3 FF	11
K	Nate Iveson	1 FG, 5 XP made	8
Total			87

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Top Dawg



Photo by: Katie Tobak | Photographer

Ferris State freshman Corey Mackin lead the British Columbia Hockey League in points last year with 54 goals and 50 assists.

Marshall Scheldt Sports Editor

Last Saturday, Oct. 17, the Ferris State hockey team picked up their first win of the season against Michigan Tech. A big contributor to the Ferris win was freshman forward Corey Mackin, and that's why he's this week's top dawg. In the 3-2 win against Michigan Tech, Mackin scored his first goal of the season on a 5-on-3 to tie the Bulldogs with

the Huskies at 1-1. The 5-foot-8-inch, 166 pound forward from Philadelphia, Pa. added his first assist of the season on a Tyler Andrew goal in the third period. Mackin may be a little undersized, but it is apparent that he creates a tough matchup for opposing defenses with his good hands and skating abilities. Before coming to Ferris State, Mackin played for the Coquitlam Express of the British Columbia Hockey League (BCHL). In his time for the

Express, Mackin lead entire BCHL with 50 goals and 54 assists to combine for 104 points in just 58 games during the 2014-2015 season. Mackin and the Bulldogs will take to the ice again next weekend against the Wisconsin Badgers this weekend. The puck will drop at 7:07 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 23 and Saturday, Oct. 24 in Big Rapids.

Sports Shorts

Beau Jensen Ferris State Torch

Women's tennis breaks GVSU undefeated streak

In decisive fashion, the Ferris State women's tennis team closed out their fall regular season play against Grand Valley. The Bulldogs handed the Lakers their first loss of the season last week with a 6-3 victory. Ferris State added three wins right off the bat when they swept GVSU in doubles play. The Bulldogs and Lakers then split in singles competition taking three wins apiece. The Bulldogs aren't hanging up their rackets yet, as they prepare for the GLIAC tournament in Midland on Friday, Oct. 23 through Sunday, Oct. 25. Ferris State is currently sitting at fourth in the league standings.

Volleyball still going strong

With a few more wins last weekend to bring the women's volleyball record to 20-1 on the season, the Bulldog women are not slowing down. The team is currently on an eight game winning streak starting with Grand Valley State on Sep. 29 all the way up to Oct. 17 when the team defeated Rockhurst during the Midwest Region Crossover, the nation's largest collegiate volleyball tournament. The next Bulldog volleyball game will be played against the Oilers of Findlay in Big Rapids on Friday, Oct. 23 at 5:00 p.m. The following night will see the Bulldogs take on the Chargers of Hillsdale at 5:00 p.m. in Big Rapids.

Men's golf takes another tourney

After a big win in Chicago at the 2015 NCAA Midwest Fall Regional #1, the Dawgs traveled to Eureka, Mo. to get their hands on another victory. A total of 24 teams attended the 2015 NCAA Midwest Fall Regional #2 and the Bulldogs beat out all competition with a total score of 606 through two rounds. Bulldog golf will conclude their fall season when they head to Detroit for the Wayne State Motor City Invitational on Sunday, Oct. 18 through Monday, Oct. 19.



Soccer from page 10

The FSU women's soccer team has set multiple school records

the season with three, but later had a different streak of four to break the record. Overall they have eight shutouts this season which is also a school record. These records can be attributed to an experienced defensive unit with three seniors in Hunter Dolan, Ashley Bradstreet and Lindsey Scott. They have allowed the second fewest shots on goal in the GLIAC. When they do let a shot go by, senior goalkeeper Maddie Haustein has been there all season with a GLIAC leading .910 save percentage. The success of this defense comes from a team philosophy. Senior forward Nichole Boehnke said, "We put an emphasis on fitness and defense at the beginning of the year and that has paid off. We have three seniors in our back line and they know how to play with each other. The communication is great and they help set up what we do on offense." Boehnke was an all-GLIAC selection last year and leads her team in goals, shots, and shot on goal percentage with seven, 34, and .588 respectively. As good as she has been, her teammates have been instrumental in running the offense with great ball movement. Junior defender Meredith Smith,

sophomore midfielder Rachel Fouts and freshman defender Carley Dubbert have a combined 14 assists and 34 points. Combined, the offense and defense has put Ferris state ranked second overall in conference scoring 15 more goals than they have allowed. "I really think we can make the top four in the GLIAC and make it to the national tournament," said Haustein. "We're all excited. We set goals at the beginning of the season and the first goal is to win the GLIAC." The Bulldogs have two games left on their schedule against Ohio Dominican and the No. 4 team in the nation Grand Valley State. Grand Valley is second nationally in goals scored with 73 on the year while allowing only seven. Ferris State must win out and Grand Valley has to drop the next few games if the Bulldogs are to win conference. Ferris plays Ohio Dominican at home in Big Rapids on Sunday, Oct. 25 at 12 p.m. and at Grand Valley State in the regular season finale in Allendale at 7 p.m.



Maddie Haustein

FSU THEATRE PRESENTS

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HOCKEY from page 10

FSU hockey will play Wisconsin in a home series this weekend

ries this weekend. Last season, the Dawgs tied one and lost one to the Badgers when they made the trip to Wisconsin for a weekend series.

The Bulldog in goal, junior Charles Williams, stressed the importance of being able to play a big-name team like Wisconsin at home in Ewingleben.

"The crowd plays a big factor in a game. I can definitely feed off of their energy and it's nice to have that kind of support when you're out there. They're almost like the seventh man," said Williams. "I try to stay as calm as possible whether we're playing at home or on the road, but it's definitely an advantage when other teams come to play at our house."

Captain Kyle Schempp is a junior Bulldog who also knows the importance of taking on a team like Wisconsin at home.

"I think when we went there last year, we weren't all that satisfied with how we played so I think that motivates us more than anything," said Schempp.

"The Dawg Pound and community give us tremendous support that everyone appreciates. We want to come out and perform well for them."

Ferris State head coach Bob Daniels is confident in his team

this year and knows that he has a group of guys who are going to give their all every time they step out on the ice. He stressed the fact that his Bulldog squad has great leadership and is prepared for the upcoming Wisconsin challenges and beyond.

Daniels said, "I like where our team is right now. I really feel that as the season unfolds and we get further and further down the road that we're going to be a real good team, and a team that can certainly contend for a top spot in our conference."

"Our next few weekends are going to be some really good tests for us early in the year," said Daniels. "It's not as though we're going to be able to ease into this, we're going off the ten foot diving board right in the beginning, but we're excited about that and we're looking forward to it."

The puck drops once again here in Big Rapids at 7:07 pm both on Friday, Oct. 23 and Saturday, Oct. 24 in Ewingleben Ice Arena.



Kyle Schempp

Ready for conference tourney

Mark Hansen
Ferris State Torch

The Ferris State women's tennis team is preparing for the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (GLIAC) tournament this weekend.

The top eight teams in the GLIAC will head to the Greater Midland Tennis Center and play each other in a playoff format. Ferris is the fourth seed heading into the tournament.

If the Bulldogs win their first match they will take on the winner of match one which will be either Grand Valley or Walsh. A rematch against Grand Valley is something that both teams would look forward to as Ferris beat Grand Valley this past weekend 6-3.

Shawnee-Ann Brelsford, number one singles and doubles explained what was going to be heavily stressed in practice this week.

"Definitely doubles because that was key in our victory in winning against Grand Valley because that helped take a bit of pressure off of singles even though we played really hard we were able to get the win that will give us more momentum heading into the tournament," Brelsford said.

Coach Chad Berryhill has this team playing well as they have won their last three matches.



Shawnee-Ann Brelsford

"If we're able to pull out the win, more than a chance than not we will get a rematch against Grand Valley, which obviously after the win against them yesterday they we will be very excited to play us but we will be excited to play them as well. It will be a great opportunity for our team," Berryhill said.

The Bulldogs know they are going to have a tough first round, their previous meeting with Wayne St. ended in a 6-3 loss.

"I feel that as a team, we set the tone because it doesn't matter what the lineup is or who the opponents are, we still support each other and play as hard as we can to make sure to get the win," Brelsford said.

The matches will be this Friday, Oct. 23, at 6:45 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 24, at 3:45 p.m., and Sunday, Oct. 25 at 8:30 a.m., respectively.

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“Mental health can be one of the most difficult topics to bring up, but it’s also one of the most important.”

Raquel Goodrich

See page 16 for story

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Banning fracking in Michigan



Photo courtesy of MCTcampus.com

Recent fracking regulations in Michigan have become more strict, but the Committee to Ban Fracking in Michigan is looking to outlaw it entirely.

I am a volunteer for the Committee To Ban Fracking in Michigan. We are trying to get enough signatures of Michigan voters to get a proposal, which would ban fracking in Michigan, on the November 2016 ballot.

I took my petitions to the Music on the Muskegon program on Oct. 3 and was surprised to find that very few Ferris State students even knew what fracking is. Since fracking is in a very real sense a threat to our planet, I want to urge Ferris students to learn about it and hopefully, help ban it.

Fracking, or “high volume horizontal hydraulic fracturing” is an amazing technological process where oil and gas can be released from deep shale and other rock formations, by the injection of huge amounts of chemical laden water and brought to the surface to be sold to the highest bidder.

Phil Vroman
Guest Writer

As wonderful as that sounds, there is a big downside and it is that fracking may cause massive water pollution. In the first place, frack wells can use from 20 to 35 million gallons of our pristine water. Sand and up to 175,000 gallons of toxic, cancer- and birth-defect causing chemicals are added to it. This mixture is forced into the ground where it breaks up oil/gas bearing rock and releases them.

The problem, of course, is that most of the millions of gallons of poisonous water from each well is left in the Earth. The gas/oil companies and even Michigan’s Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) want us to believe that the wa-

ter is deep enough that it cannot cause any harm. The DEQ even allows other states to dispose of their fracking waste water in Michigan’s injection wells!

If you believe the gas/oil companies and the politicians, then do nothing. But if you believe that there is no way that the deadly water is going to just sit there and not eventually follow a crack or a fissure or fault line or be forced by internal pressures toward our wells, lakes and streams, then please join us in the battle to ban fracking. Please look for a petition to sign or better yet, sign up as a volunteer to help.

Get informed. Once that toxic water is in the ground, the only way out is through your faucet. Check out our web site [<http://www.letsbanfracking.org>].

Chat with the chief

Editor in Chief, Keith Salowich

It’s difficult to quantify greatness in an individual, but 5,218 rushing yards at the quarterback position is a good way to start.

Senior Ferris quarterback Jason Vander Laan, who is gracing the front page of our newspaper this week, currently stands at 5,218 rushing yards. The last time another athlete at any level of collegiate football competition came near that mark was 26 years ago when Shawn Graves from Wofford College set the previ-

ous record with 5,128 yards.

Yes, you read that correctly, Vander Laan has more right now with at least four games to play, meaning that he is the new record holder for most rushing yards for a quarterback ever.

Because Graves’ record stood for 26 years, it indicates that Vander Laan is—for most of us quite literally given our age—a once-in-a-lifetime talent. He is certainly the most talented player to strap on shoulder pads for the Bulldogs.

Still, sometimes contempo-

rary talent isn’t recognized and appreciated fully in its time. Edgar Allan Poe died nearly penniless, and Vincent Van Gogh wasn’t much better off when his genius was largely appreciated only years after his passing.

It can be easy to not fully appreciate Vander Laan’s incredible accomplishments, since Ferris football has only found success in recent years, and Big Rapids is certainly no Tuscaloosa, AL. At the end of the day, it is Div. II football and doesn’t receive the

same level of glitz, glamour and media attention that the big dogs in Div. I athletics do.

Still, Vander Laan is officially the best rushing quarterback in college football history, regardless of level of competition. Reread that previous sentence a few times until it sets in that a student-athlete on Ferris State’s campus—one of our peers—is the best of all time in that category.

It’s an exciting time to be a Bulldogs fan, and Vander Laan is a big reason why.

Witnessing greatness

Dogs in the dorms

Pet ownership while in college

Is there any better feeling than returning home from school—not to see family and old friends—but to visit your dog?

In my opinion, being greeted at the door by my dog as his tail wags enthusiastically and he purges several week's worth of pent up excitement is one of the greatest pleasures on earth, and I know that I'm not alone in that belief.

It will always be better to collapse into a heap on your couch if a furry friend is there to join you, however owning and caring for a dog in college is no easy task, so occasional trips back home to visit man's best friend are the typically the best course of action.

Not only do many apartment buildings prohibit the ownership of pets, but even those that do allow it typically charge an additional fee. Purchasing food, toys and paying potential vet bills also adds to the cost of owning a pet. Unfortunately, financial aid isn't meant to pay for Fido's new dog bed, so these costs have to come out of pocket.

Perhaps the bigger obstacle that owning a dog in college presents is the amount of time that you have to dedicate to them. While we are going to class, meeting friends or cheering in the Dawg Pound at a Ferris hockey game, dogs are sitting home alone. This is far from



Keith Salowich
Editor in Chief

ideal, since dogs are so reliant on our company, being that they lack the ability to freely leave the home and meet other canine comrades.

They also need to exercise regularly. Depending on the breed and age of the dog, he or she may need to exercise multiple times per day. While this is no problem to most owners in the warmer months, it can be a lot more difficult to build up the will to take a dog for a walk if the wind chill is in the negative twenties, yet it still needs to happen.

Though it's also possible to give a dog too much attention while in college. Of course, the dog will benefit from spending time with people, but if a person must ignore academic or work related obligations to care for a dog, then that individual is not ready to balance caring for a pet with the rest of their responsibilities.

If I had my way, my labrador would be in my dorm room right now, but sadly I have to accept the fact that I'm incapable of properly caring for a dog here at Ferris.

Photo of the Week



Photo By: Devin Anderson | News Editor

Big Rapids area master masher Leif Duddles drains a freshly brewed stout outside Cranker's Brewery

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Empowering young people to talk about mental health

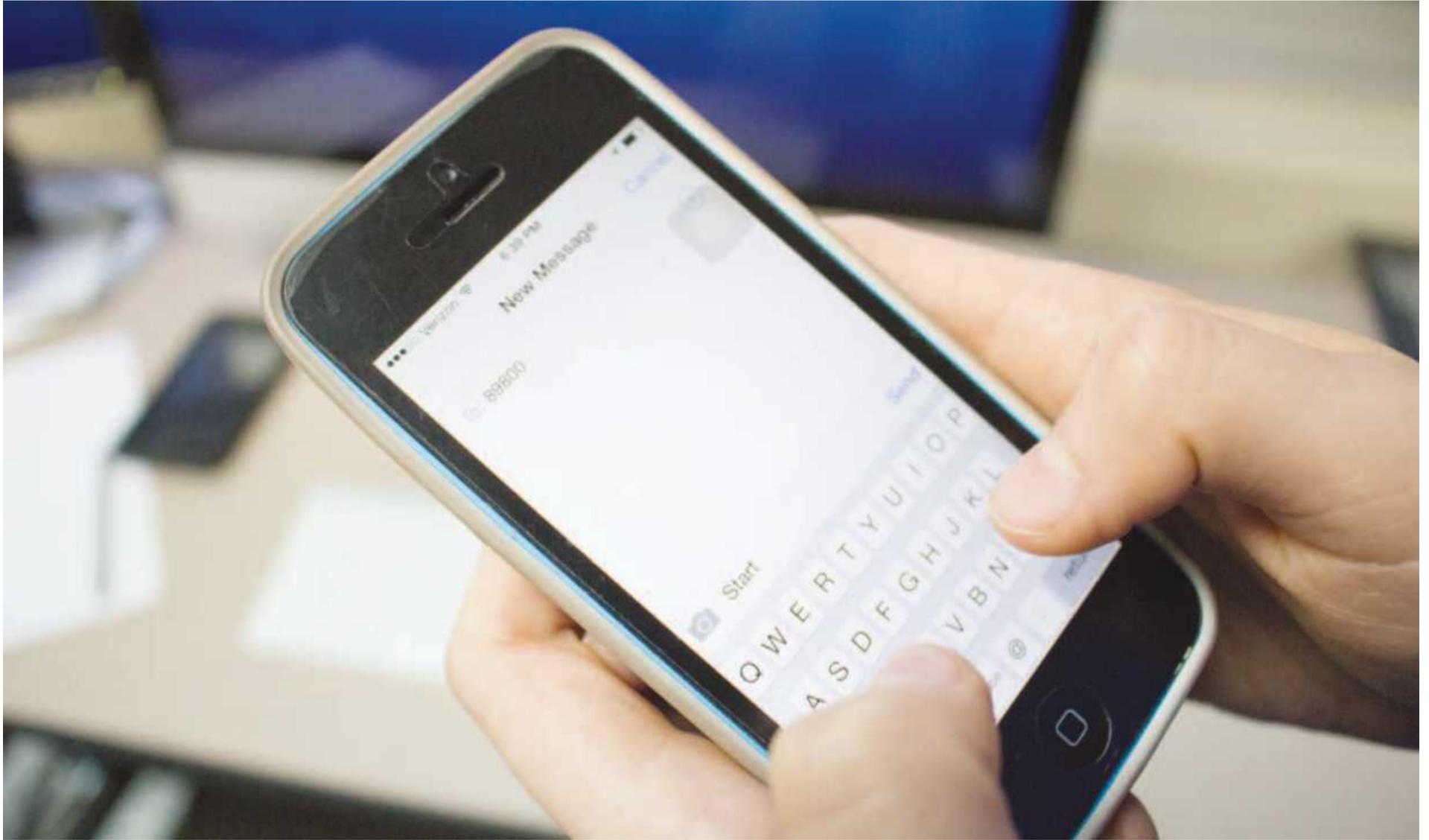


Photo by: Evan Dulac | Multimedia Editor

Individuals can text "Start" to 89800 to begin a series of informative and interactive text messages on the subject of maintaining good mental health and how to help individuals struggling with it.

The campus tragedies that have occurred over the past few weeks at Northern Arizona University, Texas Southern University and Umpqua Community College in Oregon have, once again, brought mental health issues to the forefront of the nation's consciousness. These large-scale, horrific incidents – while still rare, receive a lot of media attention. Unfortunately, they only tell part of the story. The reality is that there are many mental health stories, in every community, sometimes very close to home. The majority of people struggling with mental health issues do not resort to violence, and instead are more likely to have acts of violence happen against them.

Mental health can be one of the most difficult topics to bring up, but it's also one of the most important. Given that one in four Americans struggles with mental health issues and three-fourths of all such problems arise be-

tween the ages of 14 and 24, it's crucial that young people know they're not alone, learn to talk openly about mental health and seek help as early as possible.

Some warning signs that may indicate a young person needs help include frequent sadness; changes in mood, behavior and eating and sleeping patterns; not wanting to go to school or work; fighting with family and friends; drug and alcohol abuse and feelings of hopelessness, anger or confusion.

When teens and young adults learn to recognize these signs and have the tools to address mental health challenges, they can step up, contribute to the conversation and ultimately, help formulate community solutions to issues of mental health diagnosis and treatment.

With this in mind, the National Institute for Civil Discourse is launching the national Text, Talk, Act mental health awareness campaign, with text-mes-



Raquel Goodrich
Guest Writer

sage enabled community events going on throughout the months of October and November.

These events are designed to reach young people right where they live, through the use of mobile technology and social media. The events, which will be occurring across the country, encourage candid, face-to-face discussions on mental health to reduce isolation and misunderstanding and teach teens and young adults how to get and give help when necessary.

Here's how Text, Talk, Act works: Participants gather at any time throughout the months of October or November, in small groups (3-4 people), with one cell phone per group. They text the word "START" to the number

89800 and receive a series of text messages that guide the group through a 45-minute conversation on mental health. The text messages provide prompts about topics such as why talking about mental health is important and how to help a friend in need. The messages include videos, social media interactions and a series of questions, some of which invite participants to text in ideas on how individuals and communities can improve mental health. Participants' submitted ideas are visible in real time to all other participants around the country. As the conversation comes to a close, participants receive links to resources to continue the conversation and/or seek help.

Previous participants have said Text, Talk, Act events helped them better understand mental health and left them feeling more comfortable talking about mental health. We learned that when given a safe forum, young

people are eager to join the conversation and become committed to being part of the solution.

So let's make a resolution to talk to each other. Let's commit to learning the warning signs and starting the conversation when a young person needs help. As a community, let's learn our needs, find out about recovery resources and explore ways to improve and augment our resources.

Come to one of our events or organize your own. Organizers of Text, Talk, Act events can win \$1,000 prizes for their schools or community organizations and the campaign provides all the materials needed to organize an event.

To find an event in your area, sign up for the contest, get materials for your own event or learn more about mental health, visit [<http://creatingcommunity-solutions.org/texttalkact>].

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