

FERRIS STATE TORCH

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August 22, 2014

Student debt hits home *Bulldogs shoulder above average student loan debt*

Devin Anderson
Ferris State Torch

Aside from mortgages, America's \$1.2 trillion in student loan debt is higher than any other type of consumer debt. Student loans can put huge economic stress on college graduates eager to begin their careers. Despite inevitable financial burden, a huge importance has been placed on receiving a college education. So in this period of rising prices, at what point will the buyers stop buying?

Some speculate that we are approaching an economic bubble that could see the price of tuition collapse. But, most student loans are given through the federal government. Conveniently, failure to pay back these loans is forgiven and the costs are absorbed by the government rather than the private sector; so this financial crisis might not reach the proportions of the 2008 housing bubble, but there is plenty of cause for concern.

A 2013 report from The Institute for College Access & Success (TICAS) Project on Student Debt shows that 71% of college graduates carry some form of student loan debt. Those 7 out of 10 graduates might not be as likely to invest in real estate, buy a car, or start a business. Struggles like these could have a deep impact on GDP and the post-recession economy.

Here at Ferris, TICAS found that average loan debt per student is \$36,930. Ferris is a career-oriented University as reflected in its massive internship place-

ment, but many still find it difficult to navigate through more competitive job markets.

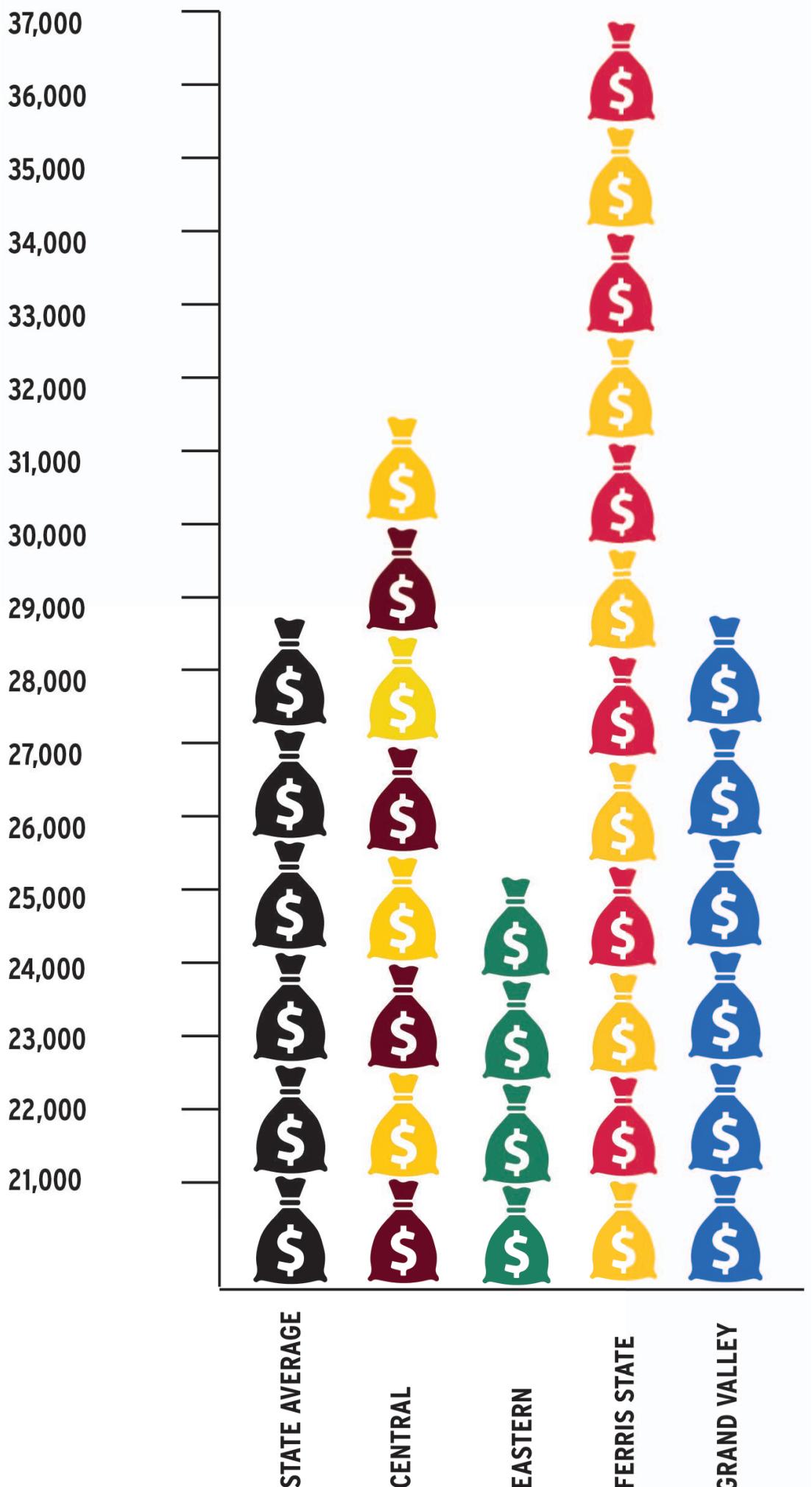
One such person is Jared Lucas, Ferris alum with a degree in Music Industry Management. After graduation, his internship with Studio Barbarossa in Orlando, Florida advanced into a position as an assistant recording engineer, working with acts such as Slash, Alter Bridge, and Falling in Reverse. In the midst of this success, he's struggling because of debt.

"I can't fully commit to starting my career," Lucas said. "Besides rent, my student loans are my biggest bill each month. It has forced me to take on a second job."

Splitting his time between jobs, Lucas has found it difficult to put the necessary time into networking and improving his skills.

Another reality of the student debt crisis is that a lot of today's workforce is overqualified. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, 37% of employed college graduates are in fields of work requiring only a high-school diploma. This isn't to say that a college education can't be beneficial, but in regard to debt-to-income ratio, return on investment is questionable. If this trend continues, student loan debt could greatly contribute to the widening wealth gap in the U.S.

With no clear idea of what the implications of this crisis may be, student debt has sparked a lively political conversation over the past few years. In June, Presi-



See **Debt** on Page 3

Only Hope College and Lawrence Tech had higher student debt averages in 2012 in the state of Michigan than Ferris.

**Information provided by The Project on Student Debt, all data from 2012.

Dining services praised

Ferris ranks high in campus dining



Photo By: Corey Saladin | Photographer

The Rock, one of Ferris State's dining facilities and most frequented places on campus by students and the community alike.

Devin Anderson
Ferris State Torch

College students are engaged in a fast-paced environment and staying properly nourished is essential. Users on Niche.com gave Ferris's dining services a B+, ranking the university fifth out of 33 Michigan colleges. Niche and other college review resources provide great insight as to what current and prospective students find important. For some, the campus life that a school creates for its students is an even bigger consideration than the school's

academics.

The quality of dining services is certainly a contributing factor to the overall college experience and many schools, such as Bowdoin College in Brunswick, Maine are taking this seriously. Bowdoin's cafeterias are among the top-ranked in the nation and offer a variety of locally grown produce including food from the college's organic garden. Compare this to some smaller schools that contract out their entire dining operation to independent catering companies.

Traditionally the idea of a college cafeteria evokes grandiose

expectations of comfort food, large desserts, sugary drinks and any other contributing agent to the feared "freshman fifteen." Most cafeterias easily meet these expectations, but in an increasingly health-conscious society, more Universities are looking to meet the demands of students trying to maintain good nutrition. Public interest in healthier lifestyles is growing rapidly. Google trends show that the word "vegan" is being searched today at more than twice the rate it was in 2005.

Here at Ferris, students can find a wealth of food options in

The Rock and Westside Cafés including health-friendly dishes and classically beloved junk food. In 2010, dining services teamed up with student government to elicit feedback from vegetarian and vegan students about what could be improved upon in the cafeterias. Since then, more vegan/vegetarian friendly menu items are being served, including the "Healthy U" initiative that provides dishes lower in calories and fat.

In addition to these healthy menu items, one can maintain a reasonably nutritious diet by monitoring portions and variety

in food groups. Both Ferris cafeterias always have a selection of fruits and vegetables; grabbing for these at snack and meal time as opposed to fried foods is merely an exercise of will-power.

Ferris offers a pool of resources to students seeking advice for healthy living at ferris.edu/dining. Dubbed the "Nutri-Choice Program," Ferris dining staff and Registered Dietitian Brenda Walton aim to teach healthy eating habits and encourage more physical activity. "Now and then," the site reads, "we need to take an honest look at our eating habits."

Wireless internet upgrade

450 new wifi antennas added across campus

Devin Anderson
Ferris State Torch

More residence halls and academic buildings now offer WIFI services as the IT staff has recently completed another phase of its project to expand wireless access across the Big Rapids Campus. Funding for the project was allo-

cated for contracted labor as well as the purchasing of WIFI antennas and network switches.

The effort to revamp the campus network began in 2011. Since January 2014, more than 450 WIFI antennas have been installed or upgraded. The upgrades include replacing older or obsolete equipment with some of the latest and greatest. "There

are over 1,300 WIFI antennas currently operating on the main Big Rapids Campus with more being brought online monthly," says Craig Roach, Network Infrastructure Coordinator.

According to Roach, enhancements have been made in all academic classrooms to improve wireless access. As for housing, Helen Ferris Hall, East Campus

apartments, and South Campus apartments are now the only Ferris housing facilities that are not WIFI capable as they are soon slated for demolition. So how close are we to having a completely wireless campus? "In campus buildings, approximately 95%," says Roach.

WIFI has become a staple in any professional environment;

as for casual use, it has nearly become a demand among young people and the tech-savvy world at large. Bryan Marquardt, Director of Housing and Residence Life notes the importance of robust technology. "The administration at FSU has put wireless as one of its priorities for students, the campus community, and visitors."

TORCH NEWS BRIEFS

Ben Rettinhouse
News Editor

Search for KCAD's new president

The process that will decide the next president of the Kendall College of Art and Design will begin this year. Cindy Todd, Program Director for Art Education, and Ron Riksen, Academic Dean and Professor of Graphic Design will be overlooking the search and selecting other chair members to assist in making the decision of who to appoint. The committee is hoped to be completed within the month.

Founder's Day celebration

Thursday, August 28th is the annual Founders' Day celebration in honor of Woodbridge and Helen Ferris. The celebration will begin with a special ceremony at 11 a.m. with the dedication of a Michigan Legal Milestone to the campus. The ceremony will be on the new Quad performance stage in front of the University Center.

A series of events continue from 3-7 p.m. in the Campus Quad including the Old-Fashioned Ice Cream Social from 4-7 p.m. sponsored by the Governmental Relations and General Counsel's office, as well as many different activities and informational booths. This celebration is free for all students, staff and community members.

Ferris welcomes new faculty

This year brings several new members of faculty and staff to Ferris campus. In his Memorandum to Faculty and Staff, President Eisler said that this year brings the largest influx of new faculty ever seen at Ferris.

The incoming faculty includes 13 new editions to the College of Business, 17 to the College of Arts and Sciences, 11 to the College of Health Professions, and various others. All newly appointed faculty members have been hired full time.

Ferris welcomes incoming freshman, class of 2019

The program Bulldogs in Action organizes returning Big Rapids Ferris students to assist new students with the move-in process. Those taking part in Bulldogs in Action will earn themselves volunteer credit as well as credit for their Ferris organizations. The program is said to be an example of the practical ways in which student volunteers give back to the university.

In addition to Bulldogs in Action, incoming students receive information and a welcome to campus from volunteers at First Impressions sites that will provide answers and help to students and parents in need. First Impressions booths are staffed on Friday, from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Monday from 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Those looking to participate should contact Laura Monahan at ext. 3905.

Bulldog Beginnings is an engaging series of events for students beginning with Bulldog Welcome, Friday evening at 7:30 p.m. at Top Taggart Field, the Backyard Bash Saturday at 3 p.m. on South Quad near the Rock, and Meijer Madness that evening at 7 p.m. You are encouraged to attend. A full listing of events is available at <http://ferris.edu/bulldogbeginnings/>.

Big Rapids Crime Report

Harrison Watt
Editor-in-chief

The past two months in the Big Rapids area have been busy for police and even rescue work. Take a look at what has been on the docket for the Department of Public Safety.

July 25, 2014

A 17 year-old Big Rapids male committed armed robbery with a knife and brass knuckles near the 300 block of South Third Street.

Police reported that money was the sole property stolen.

The victim reportedly knew their assailant as an acquaintance.

The suspect was jailed and lodged for armed robbery and carry concealed weapon. The state police and Mecosta County Sheriffs aided in the arrest.

July 31, 2014

A 59 year-old male was discovered shortly after midnight face down in the Muskegon River near the 600 block of Osceola.

One officer swam out to the unresponsive man, while rescue personnel and another officer waited ashore for the officer to return with it. The man was cold to the touch and not breathing.

At the time of release to EMS, the reporting officer observed that a pulse had been restored, though his condition beyond

that point was unknown.

August 8, 2014

A traffic stop at 2:56 a.m. resulted in the arrest of a 29 year-old Baldwin man for maintaining a mobile methamphetamine lab.

During the stop, officers located marijuana in the vehicle and upon further search, officers found that components for meth were in the vehicle, and meth was being produced at the time of the stop.

C.M.E.T. was contacted, and upon arriving at the scene to handle the methamphetamine as well as the charges against the man.



DEBT from Page 1

Student Debt at Ferris in 2012 was higher than all but two of Michigan's Universities and Colleges

President Obama signed an executive order that will allow over 5 million people to put a cap on their student loan payments at 10% of their income. Additionally, the President aims to renegotiate contracts with private loan servicers and spread awareness about the importance of un-

derstanding complicated loan terms. During a weekly address in April, Obama stressed that "in America, higher education cannot be a luxury."

The student debt crisis is far from over. Key investments are dwindling and jobs are scarce as this generation's bright minds

hope to enter a workforce of great opportunity. While close to 37 million people have outstanding student debt, knowing the hard facts about loan terms and interest rates might be just as important as an education itself.

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FERRIS STATE
TORCH CORRECTIONS

Were we mistaken? Let us know about it.

Corrections can be submitted through email at torch@ferris.edu or by calling **231.591.5946**

New Interim Associate Provost

Dr. Kirk Weller joins provost's office

Megan Smith

Ferris State Torch

Dr. Kirk Weller has been selected to serve as Interim Associate Provost of Academic Operations for the 2014-15 school year.

It was announced in April that former provost Fritz Erickson was leaving Ferris to become president of Northern Michigan University. Associate Provost Paul Blake was appointed to replace him, consequently creating an opening for his position as well, which is how Weller came into this position.

Weller has been head of FSU's Math Department since 2008 and will continue to serve "double duty" both there and in the Provost's Office. The Arts and Sciences Dean's Office will be taking over most of his department head duties, though he will still have some responsibilities including scheduling, general education projects and handling adjunct faculty. Weller has also served on the Achievement Gaps Taskforce (a group that looks for ways to help students who aren't achieving highly, especially minority and low-income students

who may not have a strong support system) and the College of Arts and Sciences Planning committee.

For students who don't know, the Provost's Office is essentially the central administrative office on campus. It is above all deans' offices and holds all of Ferris's academic programs together. Weller's position specifically will deal with such matters as hiring, budgets, curriculum, student issues and/or complaints, scheduling and registration. "It sort of handles operations on a global level," said Weller, "The further up you are in an administrative position, the less direct involvement with students, [but] the impact on students is greater." Weller likened this to flying an airplane; the higher you go, the fewer details you can make out, but the more you can see beneath you.

Weller's main focus during his year in the Provost's Office will be working on and implementing a new general education program. Future general education class requirements may be organized differently, "not expanding so much as updating for a new

time period."

Weller's colleagues are optimistic about the work he will do. "I am excited to see an additional person join this office who is very focused on making the university a better place and being attentive to assuring that students are well served," said Roberta Teahen, Associate Provost of Accreditation, Assessment, Compliance and Evaluation. "He is willing to ask hard questions and think creatively about how we might best do our work. I know that he is initially focused on working with the university to implement the new general education plans and this is an incredibly important undertaking. His understanding of the Ferris communities and the diversity of our students will be a great asset to all of us." "I have worked with Kirk Weller on numerous projects during the last five years and know him to be a dedicated educator who is truly interested in student learning," said Bill Potter, Associate Provost of Retention and Student Success. "I look forward to continuing to work together as he begins his new role."

Axtmann Nature Preserve

Ferris receives land donation



Photo By: Brock Copus | Multimedia Editor

Megan Smith

Ferris State Torch

The Axtmann Nature Preserve, donated by Ethan Axtmann and Aleta Hursh to Ferris, will provide a unique, hands-on learning experience for the university's students for years to come.

Axtmann and Hursh inherited the one-hundred-and-ten acres of property in 2000 from their parents, the late Harold and Pauline Axtmann. When they made the decision to relinquish the land, Biology professor Dr. Gary Rodabaugh knew it could be beneficial to Ferris students. He lives right next to the nature preserve and was involved in negotiations, working to persuade the brother-sister duo to donate the property to the university's biology, geology, and surveying departments. He has already taken a few of his classes to visit the land.

The university's ownership of the property was initially met with reluctance from local residents near the nature preserve who were concerned that they would no longer have access to the land. It has since been made clear to them that they may legally visit the property so long as there is no logging, hunting or camping.

As undeveloped land, the property has little monetary worth, but Rodabaugh believes it has rich educational value. The land is approximately half upland trees and half wetland, providing two distinctly different habitats that are home to a wide variety of flora and fauna. Students can

observe undisturbed wildlife (including freshwater jellyfish, raccoons, flying squirrels, turtles, frogs, at least twenty different kinds of birds and "a bear that wanders through every once in a while") and trees that are hundreds of years old. "It's cool to see the looks on the kids' faces," said Rodabaugh, "City kids haven't seen anything like this. And you can see all the stars, because there's no light pollution."

At least ten classes will be making use of the nature preserve this semester, mostly field courses, like ornithology, botany, environmental biology and forensic biology. Since the Axtmann Nature Preserve is located fourteen miles from campus, students can rely on the biology department's two twelve-passenger vans for transportation.

Though one of the conditions of Axtmann and Hursh's agreement with Ferris is that the land remains untouched, the university was granted permission to build a single classroom structure. They are hoping to include a laboratory and possibly overnight facilities in this building.

Professor Rodabaugh sees this project as one of his most important work-related achievements. "I'm very proud that I was able to negotiate a piece of property that will benefit Ferris students forever," said Rodabaugh, "If I had to do one thing before I retire, that was the thing. My job is to make sure everything is possible for my students."

Students who wish to learn more about the Axtmann Nature Preserve can contact the Ferris Foundation at (231) 591-2365 or fsufdn@ferris.edu.

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FSU ARTS & LECTURES 2014-2015



BAM PERCUSSION

Saturday, September 27th 2014 - Williams Auditorium - 7pm

"Bampercussion.com, home of the biggest smallest show in the world."

In 2006, in Philadelphia, BAM Percussion unveiled *eXplosion*, their new indoor production, that brings together physical comedy and high energy percussion. From beginning to end, eXplosion electrifies the crowd with its powerful rhythms and its deliriously funny sketches. The pulsating energy of BAM is contagious: through drumbeats and laughs, it overwhelms the audience. BAM Percussion has toured in 28 countries on 5 continents. Today, BAM continues to grow on an international level while perfecting their art, to offer a high-quality product available worldwide. "Imagine if the Blue Man Group grew out their hair and ditched the make-up - that's BAM Percussion."- artsboston.org



ERIC ALVA

Friday, November 7th 2014 - Williams Auditorium - 7pm

"I joined the military because I wanted to serve. I was patriotic, idealistic; I was also gay."

Eric Alva served in the U.S. Marines for 13 years. In 2000, he was promoted to Staff Sergeant. In 2003, on the first day of Operation Iraqi Freedom, Alva was with his battalion in Iraq when he stepped on a land mine. The explosion shattered his right arm and damaged his right leg so severely it had to be amputated. Alva received a medical discharge and was presented with a Purple Heart by President George W. Bush. He was the Iraq War's first Purple Heart recipient. Having survived a war injury, Alva felt he'd been given a second chance at life. He discovered a new calling. "I had to use my voice," he says. "I had fought and nearly died to secure rights for others that I was not free to enjoy. I had proudly served a country that was not proud of me."



THIRZA DEFOE

Saturday, February 7th 2015 - Williams Auditorium - 7pm

Thirza Defoe (Giizhiigoquay), from the Ojibwe and Oneida tribes of Wisconsin, is widely known for her sacred hoop dancing that she has been performing since the age of 8. Her many years as an accomplished hoop and eagle dancer have awarded her recognition in both the native community and throughout the world. Thirza shares her culture: traditional Iroquois social songs, storytelling, hoop dancing, eagle dancing and the Ojibwe language through educational presentations and performances for audiences of all ages and cultural backgrounds.

"An exceptionally talented dancer, singer, storyteller and actor whose performances are among the most compelling we've had the honor to present." -Howard Bass Smithsonian National Museum Of The American Indian



WAR BONDS: THE SOUNDS AND LETTERS OF WWII

Friday, February 20th 2015 - Williams Auditorium - 7pm

The living history cabaret is interspersed with personal letters from the war front and headline news from the era. Actual veterans' stories create a sentimental journey back to the days when blackouts and rationing were a small sacrifice in order to obtain freedom. It recalls a time when Rosie the Riveter discovered she could take care of herself; when African-Americans, who were segregated at home, integrated abroad to become war heroes; and when a man's only wish was to be home for Christmas. Twenty-two songs from the 1940s lift the mood, even as the atrocities of war are described. You don't have to have lived through World War II to appreciate the songs, which include Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy, Don't Sit Under the Apple Tree, Rosie the Riveter, One Meatball, White Christmas, I'll Be Home for Christmas and As Time Goes By.





LIFESTYLES

“ Please discover something new today. ”
Melanie Lobsinger
 Junior, architecture and sustainability/
 facility management
 See below for story

Bulldog Adventures

Ferris students open up about their adventures abroad



Photo Courtesy Of : Alex Finta

Ferris students wear traditional Russian princess dresses.

Hailey Klingel
 Ferris State Torch

Ferris offers many chances for its students to experience life bigger than Big Rapids.

Alex Finta and Melanie Lobsinger took complete advantage of those opportunities this summer and lived to tell the tale of their journeys.

Finta, a junior in Music Industry Management, embarked on a journey to Moscow, Russia with twelve other Ferris students.



Alex Finta
 Junior, music industry management

Petersburg.

“I wanted to go to Russia to

For two weeks, Finta and the others were aboard a cruise on the Volga River that left from Moscow and stopped at several destinations on its way to St.

learn about their culture and to get the credits I needed to graduate this year,” said Finta. “The coolest parts of the trip were seeing St. Basil’s Cathedral and going to the Russain Ballet. At one of the stops we even got to put on traditional Russian princess outfits.”

Although she enjoyed the exposure to the Russian lifestyle, Finta was surprised at the differences between Russian and American culture.

“Russians don’t smile at each other,” she said. “They always

have a straight face.”

Despite leaving her comfort zone and North America for the first time, Finta said going to Russia was one of the biggest moments of her life and she loved every minute of it.

Melanie Lobsinger, a junior Architecture and Sustainability/Facility Management student, also stepped out of her comfort zone this summer by traveling to the United Arab Emirates, a country located in the Middle East.

“I applied to a scholarship

called the William Jefferson Clinton Scholarship, which grants ten students a semester the opportunity to study at the American University in Dubai,” Lobsinger said. “I didn’t think I was going to get it, but when I did, I was stoked.”

Lobsinger said that she had always wanted to travel, but had never thought of the Middle East as a destination.

“It scared me at first, but it also excited me to know that I would be thrown into an atmosphere completely divergent

ADVENTURES from Page 6

Two Ferris students venture out of their comfort zones and discover more than just new cultures

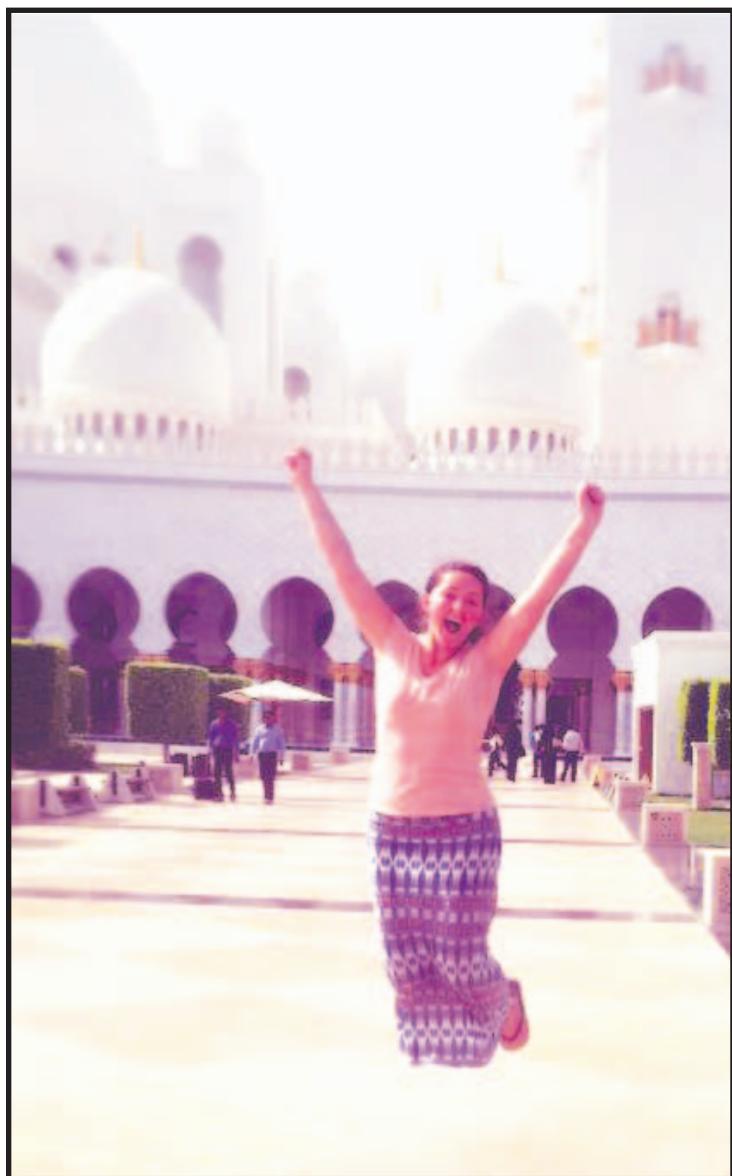


Photo Courtesy Of : Melanie Lobsinger

Melanie Lobsinger poses in front of the Sheikh Zayed Mosque in Abu Dhabi, UAE.

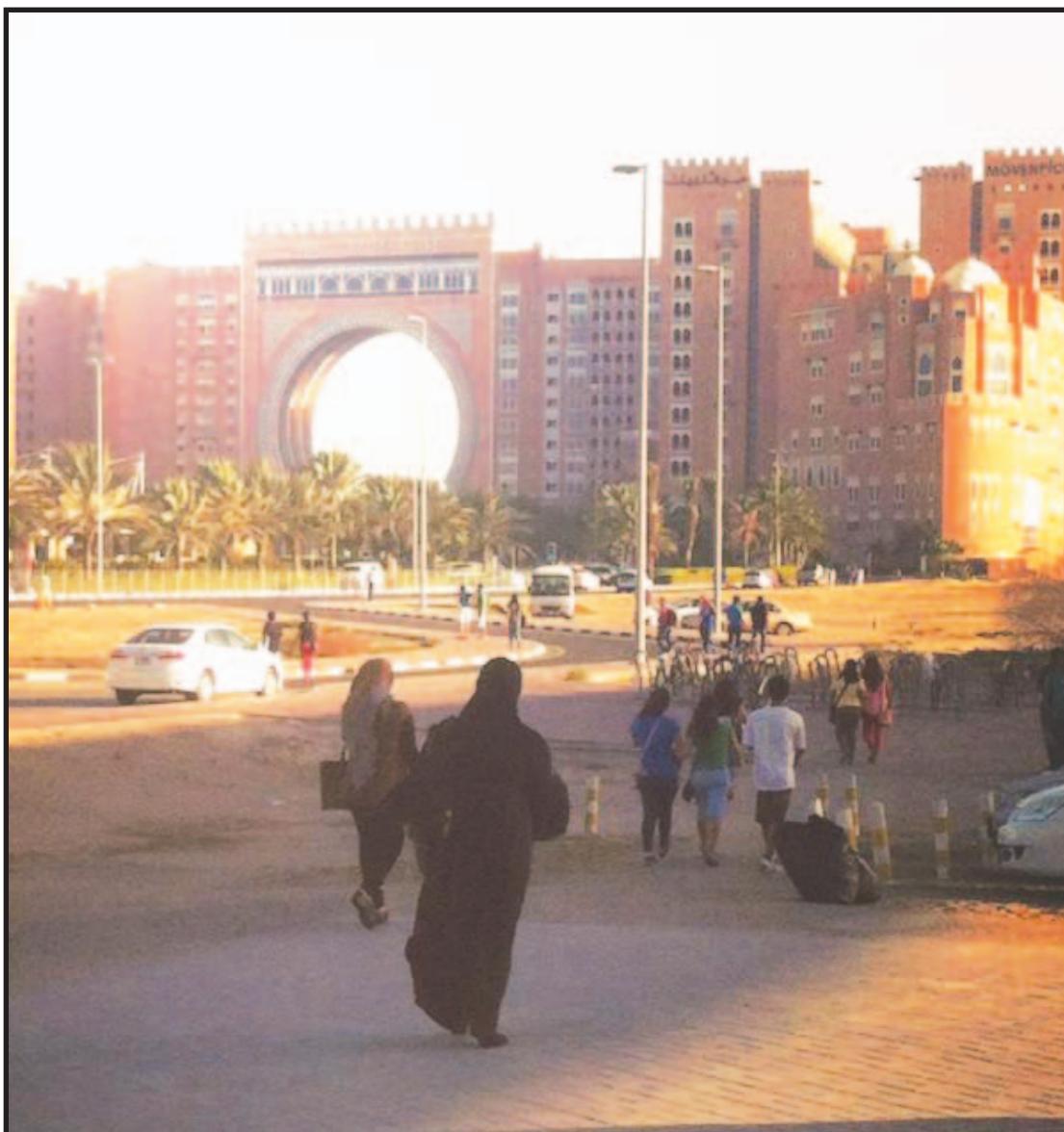


Photo Courtesy Of : Melanie Lobsinger

A view of the Ibn Battuta in Dubai, UAE.

from anything I had ever experienced before," she said.

Lobsinger expected to learn about the culture and architecture, and to visit intriguing places that would leave her stunned.

"Sure, I did those things, but none of those things were what impacted me most about the trip," she said. "I was comfort-

able in America and was most definitely not in this new environment."

Some of the opportunities Lobsinger embraced on her trip included dune bashing, camel riding, swimming in the Indian Ocean, visiting the Sheikh Zayed Mosque in Abu Dhabi, and ascending over 1,200 feet in the

tallest building in the world—the Burj Khalifa.

However, through her experiences in Dubai, Lobsinger learned more about herself than anything else.

"I learned to live and live fully," she said. "I gained an unprecedented amount of independence; a motivation to try new things,

and a desire to never stop doing. Because there's a world of foods out there that I've never tried, structures I haven't mentally taken apart and analyzed, people I haven't met, and stories begging to be written and retold."

After discovering her true self after a summer semester abroad, Lobsinger leaves others who also

carry a sense of wanderlust with some advice.

"Please discover something new today," Lobsinger said, "because though you may think you're going to learn something about the world, you may be pleasantly surprised by a new discovery about yourself."

Carnival in the Quad

Students can get one last taste of summer

Dylan Peters
Ferris State Torch

Summer isn't over just yet for the bulldogs of Ferris.

For the first time in history, Student Government and Entertainment Unlimited (EU) are teaming up to bring the carnival to campus.

"Student Government and Entertainment Unlimited wanted to do something to celebrate the end of the summer and start the school year with a bang," Harmin Gill of Student Government said. "The carnival is something we thought every-

one would enjoy and have a great time at because there will be so many different games and novelties."

According to the Vice President of Programming for Entertainment Unlimited Ronny Latimore, Entertainment Unlimited strived to bring something fresh and new to campus.

"Lots of students said they've seen the same thing over and over again," Latimore said. "So, we decided to do something completely original and different."

Students can expect to see exciting games and amazing prizes along with refreshing

food, novelties, and inflatables at the First Class Carnival.



Ronny Latimore
Vice President of Programming for Entertainment Unlimited

The carnival will take place in the North Quad on Monday, August 25 from 12-4 p.m.

"The new Airborne Adventure is a must-do for everyone," Gill said.

Although this is the first time a carnival themed event will be

at Ferris, this isn't the first time it was attempted.

"Originally, Student Government and Entertainment Unlimited wanted to do this on the last semester in spring, but it didn't work out because of the weather," Latimore said. "Instead, we decided to do it first week of the first semester because lots of new students will be there."

The carnival is free for all students and will occur in rain or shine.

Any students are welcome to help out with future Student Government and Entertainment Unlimited events.

Entertainment Unlimited meets every Monday from 6-7 P.M. at FLITE. Student Government meets every Tuesday at 6 P.M. in Business 211.

"Joining Entertainment Unlimited is a great way to help out with events and meet new people," Latimore said. "We also like to get student's input on what they would like to see in the future. We want everybody to be well represented."

The event is free to all students and is rain or shine!

The familiar faces of Ferris

Hailey Klingel

Ferris State Torch

Every day on campus you probably walk past hundreds of people without knowing who they are or what they are here for.

Each and every bulldog has their own purpose and goals here at Ferris, sharing their bright ideas and individuality to leave their mark. These three faces of Ferris are no exception.



Irma Collins
Senior, psychology

Irma Collins, a senior Psychology and Pre-Medicine major, is involved in multiple RSOs, but her presidency of two of them—Active Minds and Psi Chi—are her main focuses on campus.

Collins also has had four on-campus jobs throughout her time at Ferris. She currently works as an assistant for the Office of Academic Research, and working at the Rock Café for over two years straight.

Collins can also be seen hula-hooping all over campus with Ferris Flow Friends, a creative exercise group that she helped create in September of 2013.

“All of this involvement with Ferris State University has taught me how to properly organize events, delegate information and roles to others, and utilize the vast network I have established,” said Collins. “I am more comfortable leading others, speaking to large groups, and managing my time and priorities.”



Irma Collins hoops in a large field.

Photo Courtesy Of : Irma Collins



Dr. Patrick Bishop
Associate professor for Public Relations

Dr. B is heading into his 9th year at Ferris as an associate professor for Public Relations.

If he isn't teaching one of your classes, he can frequently be spotted around the College of Business and the IRC connector. He is



Amanda Thomas
Junior, pre-pharmacy

Amanda Thomas, a junior Pre-Pharmacy student, is well known at Ferris through her involvement with a popular on-campus RSO, Standing in the Gap.

Thomas is the president of the Christian group, and has been a member of its core team since its beginning. Some of Thomas' responsibilities include making decisions about structuring weekly gatherings, planning of weekend events, and helping to keep each group member accountable.

For Standing in the Gap, Thomas also assists in organizing game nights, sledding, weekend retreats with “Gappers” from other colleges, and many ser-

vice opportunities. Group members regularly volunteer at the Barryton Food Pantry every month, and also at a nearby nursing home to comfort and get to know the residents.

He enjoys various hobbies such as tennis, golf, ping pong, reading, writing, and photography. He also loves the performing arts and he's an active board member of Circle Theatre in Grand Rapids. Otherwise, he spends time with friends and family checking out the many great events and venues in the Grand Rapids & west Michigan area.

Even though her on-campus involvement with Standing in the Gap is a source of her tight schedule, Thomas wouldn't have it any other way.

“Being a part of Standing in the Gap is what I look forward to most about going back to school this fall,” said Thomas. “My best friends from college are people I've met through Gap, and they're people I never would have met had I not stepped out of the comfort zone of my dorm, the ‘honors zone,’ or even the family of people within my major.”

Standing in the Gap meets Thursdays at 7:30pm in FLITE 405.

A Fresh Perspective

Incoming bulldogs share their fears, excitement, and expectations

Kelsey George

Ferris State Torch

The beginning of anything new in life can be tough.

You obtain a new home, unfa-

miliar surroundings, and fresh faces of complete strangers. Add 9:00 a.m. classes into that equation and congratulations – you've got your freshman year of college.

When it comes to new adventures of freshmen year, it appears that these new arrivals expect a little more than keg stands and all-night cram sessions out of their first taste of the college life.

Modern love

There's nothing wrong with casual dating

The last thing you want to do upon arriving to college is jump into a committed relationship.

You'd be slamming shut any door of opportunity you might come across before you even approach it. College is full of a ton of people you have yet to meet and get to know, so what do you do?

The term “casual dating” seems pretty harmless. Casual dating is when two single people spend time with one another on a regular basis in an effort to get to know each other without commitments. Either or both parties can also be casually dating other people. Seems pretty innocent, right? That is, until a woman does it.

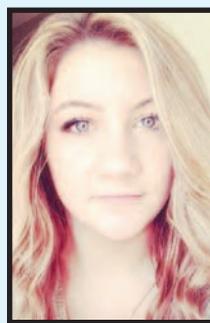
Men are often commended for talking to or seeing multiple women in a casual dating relationship. It's actually



Sarah Force
Lifestyles Editor

becoming a regular occurrence in our generation to have a “bae”, a “side chick”, a booty call, a friend with benefits, etc. However, as soon as a single girl starts talking to more than one guy, she's usually branded as a slut.

Well, ladies and gentleman, I don't agree with the new terminology such as having a “main” and “side.” People aren't dishes at Applebee's. There is nothing wrong with casual dating whether you're a female or a male. Don't let anyone shame you for exploring what the world has to offer. That's the whole point in being single! It's the best way to meet people and find out what you like, so let your freedom flag fly.



Alyssa Macdonald
Freshman, psychology

“I'm expecting much tougher assignments and professors,” Freshman Psychology major Alyssa Macdonald said, “I'm also a little nervous about making it to all my classes on time on a new and unfamiliar campus.”

Despite the nerves, Macdonald also said she is really excited for Welcome Week and meeting friendly new people.

Freshman Nursing major Taylor Batou had the same thoughts in mind when she noted that she looks forward to meeting all new people, learning new things, and coming across amazing experiences.



Taylor Batou
Freshman, nursing

“It's going to be a whole new experience for me, living 3 hours away from home where I don't know anybody, Batou said, “I'm expecting this year to be really great, [it's] something I've wanted for a long time.”

Like many newcomers, Automotive Service Technology freshman Ryan Frost expressed both nervousness and excitement for the upcoming chapter of his life at Ferris.



Ryan Frost
Freshman, automotive service technology

“I think I'm most excited to be in classes with a bunch of other people that share the same passion as I do,” Frost said.

“I am a little nervous that I might make some mistakes at first,” Frost said, “but I'm excited to be living basically on my own and to make a start on my life.”

THINGS TO DO

ON CAMPUS, BIG RAPIDS, GRAND RAPIDS & MORE

CAMPUS FUN

Aug 22: Bulldog Welcome Top Taggart Field 7:30pm
RHA Move on Top Taggart Field 9 pm - 11pm free popcorn!

Aug. 23: Backyard Bash- South Quad 3pm- 5pm

Aug 25: First Class Carnival 12 N, North Quad

Aug 27: Beats and Eats 6pm, The Rock Café

Aug 28: Founder's Day Celebration 3pm North Quad
Ice Cream Social 4-7pm North Quad

EU Silent Disco Party 8:30pm-11pm

OFF CAMPUS

Aug 22: Music in Pocket Park 12-2pm
Bring the whole family to this FREE concert held downtown Big Rapids across the street from the Farmer's Market and next to Pepper's Café in front of Chemical Bank.

Aug 23: Meijer Madness 7pm-10pm

Aug 26 Blood Drive 1-6:45pm at Stanwood Buffalo Eagles

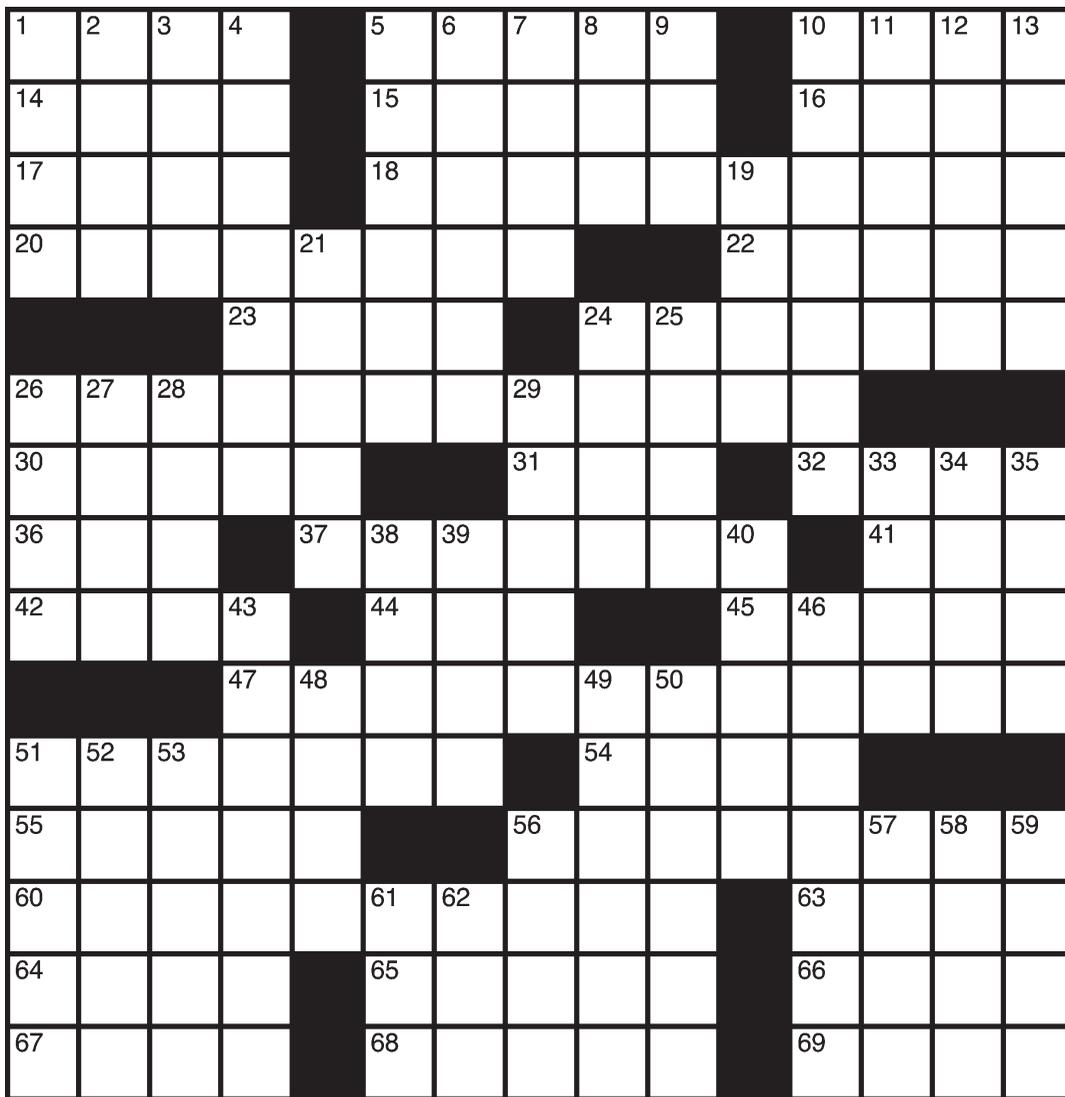
Aug. 28-Sep. 1: Big Rapids Riverdays Festival

Aug 29: \$5 Unlimited Glow Bowling, The Gate 9pm-12am

Aug 31: No Tap Doubles Tournament 6pm-9pm at The Gate
9 Pin No Tap Doubles Tournament
Arrive by 5 pm to sign-up & check-in

Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Lewis



SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mephram Group

		2	6	4				
6	4				8			
5			1	3				4
9							5	1
		5				7		
1	2							3
4				2				5
			3				8	7
				9	6	4		

Across

- 1 Junk email
- 5 "A Streetcar ___ Desire"
- 10 Talks and talks and talks
- 14 Strauss of denim
- 15 Double-reed instruments
- 16 Author ___ Stanley Gardner
- 17 Fateful date for Caesar
- 18 Unlucky thing to draw
- 20 Poverty-stricken
- 22 Share and share ___
- 23 Banned apple spray
- 24 Solved, as a cryptogram
- 26 Tabletop game requiring steady hands
- 30 Witch trials town
- 31 Like a prof. emeritus
- 32 Narrate
- 36 Supermarket chain initials
- 37 McCain's title
- 41 Pizzeria order
- 42 Male offspring
- 44 Univ. proctors, often
- 45 Seat of New York's Oneida County
- 47 Go on strike, in slang
- 51 Vehement speeches
- 54 Have in mind

Down

- 1 Got one's uniform dirty, as a base runner
- 2 Feet pampering, briefly
- 3 State confidently
- 4 Error
- 5 "Never gonna happen"
- 6 Finds repugnant
- 7 Tie up in the harbor
- 8 At any time, to Frost
- 9 Summer hrs.
- 10 "Amscray!"
- 11 Extra Dry deodorant
- 12 Eubie of jazz
- 13 Embroidered, e.g.

- 19 Potato bag
- 21 Future prunes, perhaps
- 24 Weight loss plan
- 25 Opposite of endo-
- 26 Trident-shaped Greek letters
- 27 "Othello" villain
- 28 Scottish family
- 29 Garbage
- 33 Larger-than-life
- 34 Kiss from a dog
- 35 Grazing grounds
- 38 Suffix with major or Smurf
- 39 D.C. baseball team
- 40 Beyond the burbs
- 43 Shuffling gait
- 46 "30 Rock" creator
- 48 Brainstorm
- 49 Wife of 27-Down
- 50 Request earnestly, as mercy
- 51 Potato or yam
- 52 "Lord, ___?": Matthew
- 53 Fit for a king
- 56 Couplet creator
- 57 Michelin product
- 58 Tennis great Lendl
- 59 Mythical monster's loch
- 61 Org. with narcs
- 62 Oscar Wilde's forte



Overheard at Ferris

"We're breaking up! Don't you ever say \$1 pizza sucks."

-Student Rec Center

**READ
INTO
IT!**



SPORTS

“I think that we will have a great season this year and I’m excited to be working with a group of girls that share the same passion as me to reach the same goal.”

Ayanna Buckley
Ferris State University
See page 12 for story

FOOTBALL



Gearing up to throw down

Bulldogs football prepare for a run at the 2014 GLIAC Title

Photo By: Corey Saladin | Photography

Head coach Tony Annese walks team through one of many pre-season practices as Ferris State prepares for upcoming 2014 football season.

Justin Aiken

Ferris State Torch

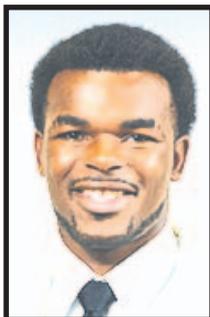
With football season just around the corner, the Ferris State football team looks to make improvements upon an 8-3 record from a year ago and make a run at the GLIAC Title.

Expectations are high this season for the Bulldogs as they began fall camp with their first practice of the 2014 season that started on Thursday, August 14th. The Bulldogs will return seven preseason NCAA Division II All-American and 14 starters from last season’s squad.

“The biggest thing from last season is that we pick up where we left off. We can’t take any steps back,” said sophomore running back Kitwana Clark. “We have a lot of talent on this team.

Everyone has to play their role, know their role and just make it happen. No steps back.”

Among the returnees is Preseason All-American quarterback Jason Vander Laan. As a sophomore in the 2013 campaign, Vander Laan finished the season with 1,607 yards on the ground, breaking the NCAA Division II all-time single season record. Named as an All-GLIAC Second Team member, Vander Laan is excited for the poten-



Kitwana Clark
Sophomore, runningback

tial of the team heading into the 2014 season.

“This year’s team has a high excitement level to it. We’re all ready to play right now and we have a different mind-set this year than in years past,” Vander Laan said. “We know how much potential we have.



Jason Vander Laan
Junior, quarterback

We’ve had one or two losses in the past couple of seasons that we shouldn’t have had. We need to make sure we are ready for every game and if we play to our potential we can beat anyone.

We’re gonna set the goals high, but I think we’ll be in position to make a run.”

Vander Laan also stated that the team has been working hard all summer to make sure they put themselves in position to win. Without the coaches around prior to training camp due to NCAA rules and regulations, Vander Laan has been joined by a group of 44 Bulldogs during the offseason who lifted every day during the week and ran seven on seven drills two days a week. The junior signal caller also put a lot of emphasis on improving leadership, playing off of the wishes of his head coach.

“Coach Annese has been really stressing leadership this offseason and developing to be a better leader. Last year we were

too much of a run oriented team so working on the passing game has been big this summer, too,” said Vander Laan. “If we spread the ball around and are able to pass more it’ll make us a lot harder to defend.”



Carlton Johnson
Senior, defensive-end

Both Vander Laan and Clark had similar takes on the biggest focus during the offseason for the Bulldogs, team chemistry and leadership.

“Besides working out, the main focus was to really reach out to more teammates and get

Devout Bulldog fan passes away

Ferris State loses one of its greatest supporters in super-fan Richie Hillman



Photo courtesy of: Mokenk Funeral Home

Beloved Bulldog super-fan passed away on July,19th 2014 in Barryton Michigan.

Justin Aiken
Ferris State Torch

Over the summer, the Bulldog athletic family lost one of their biggest supporters and most passionate fans in Richard "Richie" Hillman.

Hillman passed away peacefully in an adult foster care home on July 19, 2014 in Barryton, Mich. Hillman was known around the Big Rapids community as Ferris State hockey's own "super-fan".

Hillman suffered from Down syndrome, but that didn't stop him from becoming an immense fan of the Ferris State Bulldog hockey. During the 80's and 90's, Hillman would sport the Bulldog jersey and hat and head to the ice arena to cheer on the Dawgs. Students befriended Hillman, and his glowing personality and smile, due to his support for the Bulldog hockey team, soon enough becoming a model fan in the Bulldog family.

Matt "Monkey Man" Leindecker is the modern day super-fan for the Ferris State hockey team. He can be noticed at every home game dressed as a giant monkey in the student section. Leindecker relates to Hillman with the pride he has and the relationships he has gained through being a Ferris hockey fan.

"Meeting people and hearing their stories about their time at Ferris is one of the best parts about being a Ferris hockey fan," said Leindecker. "The way I got into being such a big fan was just getting to know the guys on a personal level. It just became

watching your friends play a sport that they love."

Both Hillman and Leindecker were well known around the Big Rapids community as true fans of Ferris State hockey. Hillman was a model example of how people of the Big Rapids community can connect with the Ferris State sports programs.

Not many have what it takes to be a super-fan, as it is quite the responsibility to uphold. Being a fan is easy when things are going well, but in the times of a slump or a bad season, many people can lose interest. Hillman stuck with the Bulldogs through thick and thin, showing the merits of a true fan of the crimson and gold.

Most people don't realize the effect that fans can have on the outlook of a game. The roar of the crowd cheering you on is unlike any other feeling out there. For the Bulldog family to have a super-fan like Richie Hillman means a lot to the entire program.

Hillman is survived by his brother Paul and his wife Carol



Matt Leindecker
Ferris State Alumni

Hillman; his sisters, JoAnn Briglia of and Rose Marie Forbe; brothers, Mark, Wayne, and Paul and his sister Marcia Ostrander. Hillman would have been 57 on August 19th.

Lighting up the games

New Scoreboard addition construction underway for softball and volleyball



Photo By: Corey Saladin | Photography

Both Ferris State volleyball and softball venues will see visible improvements to their scoreboards. Scoreboard renovation will not be finished until 2015.

Megan Smith
Ferris State Torch

Two Ferris State sports will see improvements in their scoreboards, revamping the experience for both players and fans.

Both Bulldogs volleyball and softball's scoreboards will be renovated eventually, adding to the overall atmosphere of attending one of their home games. The scoreboards now are simple and lack modern upgrades that are frequent around sporting venues today.

Thanks to the administration, including senior women's administrator, Sarah Higley, Ferris State was able to renovate the scoreboards to make them brighter, colorful, and school spirited.

Once the administration realized they had enough money in the budget to start creating a better ambience at games, they recognized that the scoreboards were going to be the first thing to change in the gyms and on the fields.

Last year the football team

was granted with a whole new scoreboard and now it is time for volleyball and softball to experience the same excitement.

"(The scoreboard) will make the fans feel more involved and more informed. I do know we will have stats that scroll through, along with a rolling banner," junior libero, DeDee Dowd, said. "The fans will come because of our skill and because we are fun to watch. It will be a bonus that they also get to enjoy the new scoreboard."



Deedee Dowd
Junior, libero

The attention for the games are expected to increase, not only for the talent of the lady Bulldogs, but also for the new renovations and the added involvement within the games.

The softball program will

not be receiving a whole new scoreboard; however, there are plenty of additions to repair and

make the old scoreboard look completely new.

"The scoreboard is being repaired to look sharper and actually show the right score," said sophomore catcher/third baseman Sydney Hasselbach. "It will also have all the stats displayed."

Ferris State's women's volleyball program will show off their new scoreboard at their first home game on September 19 against Walsh at 7:00 p.m.

The renovations for the softball scoreboard will not be able to be used until next spring when the Bulldogs start their 2015 season.



Sydney Hasselbach
Sophomore, catcher

FOOTBALL from Page 10

Team preps for success by focusing on leadership going forward

to know them better," said Clark. "Our team chemistry is very important and will be the key to our success this season."

One setback the Bulldog's will face this season is the departure of defensive coordinator Lou Esposito. Esposito left Ferris State to become the first head coach of the Davenport University Panthers. Although

the position has yet to be filled, players believe the position will be filled within the existing coaching staff.

"We are doing very good so far in camp," said senior defensive end Carlton Johnson. "We all know what the defensive plan is and know our responsibility so we are confident. Espo was a good coach, but the position

more than likely is going to be someone within the staff."

The Bulldogs first game is slated for Sept. 4 at McKendree in Lebanon, Ill., with kickoff scheduled at 8 p.m. The Bulldogs first home game of the 2014 season will be against GLIAC rival, the Lakers of Grand Valley State University on Sept. 20. at 7 p.m.

VOLLEYBALL

Bulldogs getting set for action

Ferris volleyball looking forward to success in 2014



Photo courtesy of: Ferris Athletics

Richard Mead
Sports Editor

Ferris State volleyball heads into the new school year with hopes of recreating last season success as the regular season looms.

The Bulldogs finished up the 2013 volleyball season with a prolonged run into the postseason. A loss to BYU-Hawaii in the NCAA DII Midwest regional semifinals ended their stellar run and capped off their 25-9 season. Now that summer is winding down and students are flooding in to campus, Ferris' squad is ready to hit the court and compete in the 2014 campaign.

"Our team has a great work ethic, and our roster consists of extremely hard workers," junior middle-outside hitter,

Claire Grawburg, said. "We are Bulldogs, we fight for each point and we want to provide our fans with a good volleyball match that ends with the Bulldogs being victorious. Replicating last season isn't the go although, we want to go further."



Claire Grawburg
Junior, middle hitter

Even though reproducing last year's success is not the main focus, it's hard to not refer to their prior seasons achievements. Ferris won seven of their first ten contests to kickoff the 2013 regular season, and lost

back-to-back matchups once. The campaign also saw the team achieve winning streaks of four and five games, not including a dominant eight game run from October 13th through November 10th.

This summer saw Ferris State's roster evolve as they lost seven players and added at least four following the 2013 season. The Bulldogs roster



Ayanna Buckley
Freshman, outside hitter

losses came at the hands of six seniors finishing their playing careers and at least one athlete, former Ferris outside hitter Kate

Pretty, to a transfer. Ferris State, though, did add four freshman signings in Laura Raminga, Nicole Malouhos, Maria Kronner, and Ayanna Buckley to help fill in the vacant spots.

"I think that we will have a great season this year and I'm excited to be working with a group of girls that share the same passion as me to reach the same goal," Buckley said. "I see myself working as hard as possible and giving 110% on and off the court to be the best I can in order to contribute to the team's success. I know that we're in a pretty challenging conference and we all want the big title so each game should be challenging."

The Bulldogs will open the season at the Tampa Invitational in Tampa, Florida from September 4th through the 6th. The season's first home contest is slated for

September 19th against Walsh University as the Bulldogs will open their first two-game home stand against Walsh and Malone, respectively.



Courtney Rehm
Junior, middle-hitter

"(The team should) approach each game the same way, whether the opponent is ranked first or last," junior middle-hitter, Courtney Rehm, said. "You will see the exact same team you saw at the end of last season. Our plan is to go forward, not backwards."



Meijer madness

Saturday, August 23 | 7pm-10pm

Exclusively for Ferris State University Students

- Free food, samples, prizes and much more!
- Free on-campus bus service directly to the store!
Campus Bus service will pick up and drop off students starting at 6:45pm.
- Deals to deck out your room!



At This Location
15400 Waldron Way
Big Rapids, MI

meijer



Sports Shorts

Motte and Rudd tagged "Bulldogs of the Year"

At the end of every school year two athletes, man and woman, are granted the Dean Davenport "Bulldog of the Year" Award based on how they have performed over the past year.

Award criteria reside in strong athletic achievements, strong individual character, and outstanding academic achievement.

The "Bulldog of the Year" Award for 2013-14 campaign was granted to junior goaltender CJ Motte of Ferris' men's ice hockey program along with senior runner Anna Rudd of Ferris' women's track and field/cross country program who has received the honor for the second year.

Both Bulldogs surpassed the award criteria by going above and beyond on and off the court.

Football goes into year with seven Pre-season All-Americans

With football season just around the corner, Ferris State will start the campaign with seven players, three offensive and four defensive players that have been chosen as USA Football Preseason Division II All-Americans.

Junior defensive end Justin Zimmer headlines the group of Bulldogs as a USA Football Preseason First-Team All-American.

The other three defensive players, including senior defensive picks in tackle Corey Stone, linebacker Darnell Morris, and defensive back A.J. McEwen, were all granted with third-team.

Third-team Preseason All-American quarterback Jason Vander Laan along with a pair of preseason honorable mention choices in junior lineman Adam Bennett and senior receiver Jake Lampman represent the offensive unit.

Bulldog Hockey signs on with Bauer

The Ferris State University men's ice hockey program will kick off their 37th season of NCAA Division I competition with a new brand dressing them head-to-toe.

The Bulldogs have signed as exclusive multi-year agreement with Bauer Hockey Inc., which is the world's leading manufacturer in ice hockey equipment.

The four-year deal with Bauer Hockey will include such equipment items as skates, helmets, visors, sticks, gloves, and pants.

Tickets are on sale, so get your season tickets to come check out our boys in their new gear.

Two track and field athletes awarded Meijer grant

After every fall, winter, and spring season Meijer, Inc. grant twelve athletes, six women and six men, with the Meijer Commissioner's Award.

Once spring season came to an end, two of Ferris State University track and field student-athletes, senior distance runner Anna Rudd and junior field athlete Lucas Johnson, were granted with the award in the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.

The award is presented to twelve student-athletes that excel both in the classroom and on the fields of play.

Rudd was fortunate to be awarded the Meijer Commissioner's Award for her second time throughout her college career.

Ferris Athletics teams up with Underarmour

Ferris State University Athletics has joined forces with one of the global leaders in performance footwear and apparel in a multi-year deal to have Under Armour support all the Bulldog teams.

The Bulldogs are the very first NCAA school in Michigan to sign an exclusive agreement with Under Armour.

Ferris State Athletics will have all seventeen varsity teams dressed in Under Armour gear head-to-toe starting the fall of 2014.

The Bulldogs women's softball team was the first of the athletic programs to be granted with new equipment and apparel.

Trio of Bulldogs named to All-American Scholar team

Three members of the Ferris State University men's golf program were named to the 2014 Cleveland Golf/Srixon All-American Scholar Team for their efforts on the course and in the classroom.

The three Bulldogs included senior Trent Davison, junior Chris Eaton, and junior Sam Stark.

In order to be eligible for the Cleveland Golf/Srixon All-American Scholar status, an athlete must be a junior or senior academically, compete in at least three full seasons at the collegiate level, participate in fifty percent of the teams competitive rounds, have a stroke average under 78.0 in Division II, maintain a cumulative grade-point average of 3.2 or above, and be in good standings with the university.

A total of 75 players in Division II were granted with this honor and three of them happen to be our prideful Bulldogs.

Top Dawg



The Torch staff will pick one person a week, athlete or other, that we believe to have impacted Ferris Athletics and name them the "Top Dawg" for that week.

Soccer head coach Andy McCaslin, who is entering his second season at the reigns for the Bulldogs soccer team, recently underwent the "Ice Bucket Challenge."

The challenge that sees people from every level of athletics around the country getting dunked by game coolers filled with ice water, is sweeping social media even at the pro level. The challenge was created to help raise awareness for ALS (Amyotrophic Lateral

Sclerosis), as the person challenged has to either donate \$100 to an ALS fund or film themselves being dunked.

McCaslin gave himself up for enjoyment of Bulldogs fans as he had a chest cooler full of ice water dumped on him by a pair of his player who were elevated about 20 feet on a platform. McCaslin challenged the Saginaw Valley soccer team as the next to face the ice bucket challenge.

Pro outlook

Former Ferris State hockey standout signs one year deal with AHL's Grand Rapids Griffins

Richard Mead
Sports Editor

Former Ferris State hockey standout, Kyle Bonis, signed on with the Red Wings AHL affiliate, the Grand Rapids Griffins.

Bonis, who played with the Bulldogs from 2009 through the 2013, was signed to a one-year deal with the NHL affiliate as he extended his hockey career into the pros.

Prior to being picked up by the Griffins, Bonis played one season with the ECHL's Florida Everblades. During his time with the Everblades, Bonis logged 45 points (25-20-45) in 65 games with the semi-pro team and received attention from the higher ups.

During his Bulldog career, Bonis saw action in 136 games in the crimson and gold. He was an impactful starter at left wing who logged 77 career points and helped lead Ferris to its first ever

National Championship game in 2012. Throughout his regular season career at Ferris State, Bonis had 28 goals, 21 assists, and plus-minus of +15.

Bonis will be given an opportunity to showcase his talents in front of thousands of fans at the Van Andel Arena in Grand Rapids, Mich. If this opportunity plays out, Bonis could join the



Kyle Bonis
Grand Rapids Griffins

four former Ferris players who are currently signed on to an NHL team in Chris Kunitz, Zach Redmond, Chad Billins, and Greg Rallo.

The Griffins are coming off of a season that saw the squad win 46 of their 76 games en route to their second straight playoff appear-

ance. In the team's first of the two playoff stints, Grand Rapids took home the 2013 Calder Cup after a victory over the Syracuse Crunch to win the AHL's championship game.

Bonis will be competing against at least six other left and right wings for playing time on the Van Andel Ice.

If given the chance to play immediately, Bonis will suit up in his first AHL hockey game on December 31st as the Griffins open the season on this slated day, with the opponent yet to be decided.

All in all, Ferris State has had eleven former Bulldogs play in an NHL game, with Bonis becoming the newest candidate for the twelfth spot. The Griffins are the primary affiliate of the Detroit Redwings. In 2012-13, Billins helped lead the Griffins to their first ever Calder Cup Championship. That same season, Bonis led the Bulldogs in goals as a senior.



OPINIONS

Don't ever be ashamed of
being human.

Sarah Force
Lifestyles Editor
See page 15 for story

FERRIS STATE TORCH

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

VOICES

Student Recreation Center 102
Ferris State University
Big Rapids, MI 49307
www.fsutorch.com/letter-to-the-editor/

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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Letter From The Editor

Turn the page

Harrison Watt
Editor-in-Chief

Two years in Torch time feels like a short few months.

Having been at this for half of a college career, I've seen staff turnover, I've seen changes in tradition, and now comes a change in culture.

Often I've been asked what I'm most excited for in this position, and what may be my greatest challenge. The answer has been the same for both every time.

16 staff members including our Editor-in-Chief either graduated or left us. It's hard to be one of two remaining from my first year, knowing that many of my former coworkers have moved on.

This new staff brings it's own challenges in staff training and comfortability in being a reporter, but what it brings is a chance at change.

Two years ago, we were fighting to stay alive and in print. Last year, we were challenged to go forward and advance our standards. This year we are challenged to become this University's most reliable source of news.

It is with tenacious and truthful intent that we go forward into the 2014-15 publication year. We wish to be visible, approachable and trustworthy. Fluff pieces and lazy reporting are not an option.

Our service is for you, so take advantage of it. For you, we've built a new website, visit and comment on it. Write in to us, call our office phone and let us know you're reading, whether you like what we're writing or not. Your feedback in the end helps you receive even better news. Our staff pledges for the sake of the readers to work tirelessly, leave no stone unturned, and give you what you deserve. The truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth.

Most importantly, be active in our news community. Tell us when there is something that needs to be said and tell us when there is something awry. If there is an opinion you wish to write, tell us. We take guest columns and publish them in the paper often.

We are committed to you the reader, and we are committed to becoming a great publication, and here is your open invitation to participate in it with us.

Ferguson and twitter activism

The very real power of twitter in a very terrifying situation

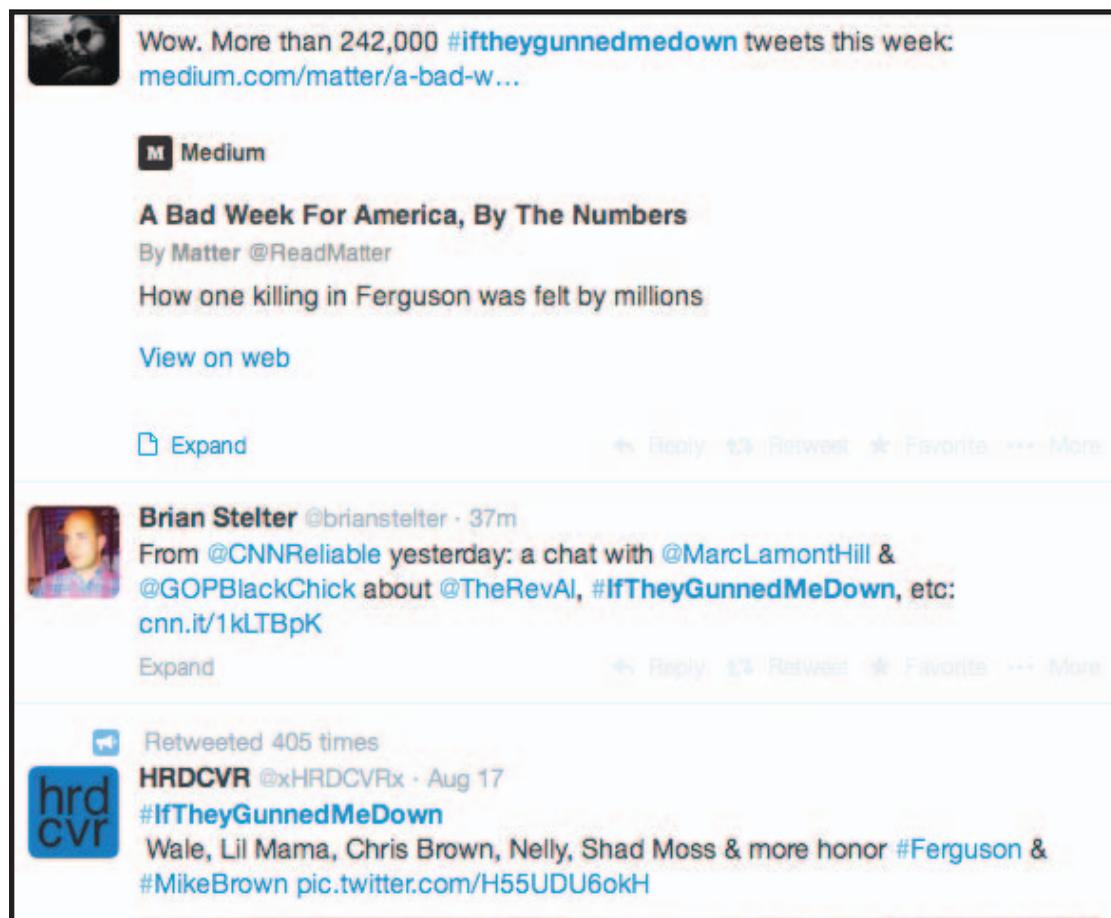


Photo By: Kaila Parent | Production Assistant

Screenshot of twitters newsfeed and the social movement that millions have contributed that started behind the death of Michael Brown.

As of writing this, my last week of internet activity has been awash in Ferguson, MO. What began with death of Michael Brown - an unarmed, college-bound black youth shot six times by police officer Darren Wilson - is now erupted into pot boiling over with Twitter-driven news of protests, police violence and disinformation, and a genuinely terrifying series of events.

News of the events in Ferguson and discussions of racism and police militarization has been driven by Twitter, even more so than any other recent news outbreak. We get our news not from NBC, FOX, or CNN, but from the tweets, pictures, and videos from reporters and civilians on the ground in Ferguson.

This fusion of social media activism - things like the chilling #IfTheyGunnedMeDown - and Twitter-driven news is familiar, but not on this scale. We've seen it with Wendy Davis and the Occupy movement. We've had #bringbackourgirls and #yesallwomen. National news used to mock all this, but it is now driven by it. Many questioned or decried social media activism as slactivism, or said, as television show runner Shonda Rimes put it, #StopPretendingHashtagsAreTheSameAsDoingSomething.



Tyler Hanan
Lifestyles Editor

These arguments are falling away, though. The internet is our most powerful tool now. Anyone can avoid CNN without a second thought - twitter news and activism inform and educate even the most uninvolved.

The situation is like something out of a dystopian novel, a story of over-militarized men with trigger-happy tear gas canisters (there are videos of kids being gassed) and an alarming willingness to threaten to shoot (Argus Radio's Mustafa Hussein) and mace (Huff Post's Amanda Terkel) reporters.

It would be difficult to believe if not for the tweets, the pictures, the videos, the vines. Articles are basically lists of tweets describing the scene(s). They're shocking, but they paint a vivid picture of delicate situation mishandled by the roughest of hands. We have all this information because of the internet, and we have context because of the activism.

So often, these things peter out. We get distracted, we forget, and minimal change happens. Gun control regulations seemed inevitable in the wake of Newtown - that bill ended

up getting shot down. An abortion bill ended up getting forced through in Texas despite Davis' filibuster.

Thanks to social networks - and to both the reporters on the ground and the internet savvy in their homes - this is the greatest challenge yet to our attention spans. It's fed not only by the developments in Ferguson, but the instances and videos of other police brutality against black males, most notably the chokehold death of Eric Holder.

Some authorities clearly just want this to go away - they hid the name of Wilson, inexplicably, for days. Perhaps this once, it won't. Perhaps this is the day when Twitter's power truly becomes a force. Perhaps we won't simply see the individual perpetrators punished properly.

Maybe something - the racism, the militarization, the police brutality - will really, truly change. If not now, when? This situation is already ugly enough. If not even this can affect change, how ugly do things have to get?

For more information on the events in Ferguson, simply open twitter, where you can also find links to donate money for food to the protesters in Ferguson. And they said twitter activism could accomplish nothing.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"Rather be true friend to one and known by none, than known by many but have no true friends in any."

Getting down on campus

If at first you don't sex-ceed, try something else



Ben Rettinhouse
Ferris State Torch

There are many things to be said for going to college far from home, but the best thing about venturing outside of your comfort zone is the previously unheard of amount of privacy you will have.

For the first time probably ever you will be able to leave behind all those kids you went to high school with who, after twelve years together, you're ready to not see again until the five year reunion. College lacks the inane drama that plagued the hallways of your high school, and no longer do you have to tiptoe around for fear of somebody catching wind of the parts of your personal life that aren't their business anyway.

In short, it's the perfect place to have sex.

College is the opportune time to do a little self-exploration. Let's talk sex, shall we? I suppose we should start at the way most people below college age are exposed to sex: sex education class and porn, which teach us that one man lays on top of one woman, there's a few minutes of thrusting, and then it's over. According to sex ed., sex usually ends in either a baby, chlamydia, or both. According to porn, sex ends with...well, you know what, we'll save that for another day. Point is, neither is exactly true.

You'll soon learn, upon making an eclectic variety of friends, that most college kids have one thing in common. They love talking about sex. It's the only time in your life in which talking about all the sex you're having (or, more likely, lying about having) will be appropriate dinner conversation. Enjoy it while it lasts. And while you're friends might only be talking about heterosexual relations, believe it or not, other methods do indeed exist. For those entering their freshman year with the underlying knowledge that they might not exactly be straight, congratulations, there's a good segment of people on campus who feel the same way - and they all enjoy having sex too.

In the outside world, two men having sex carries this weird stigma called "being gay." In reality, it's really just two men going at it the same way one man and one woman do, but with all the negative hype surrounding homosexuality, it's easy to understand why one wouldn't want to speak up about their feelings.

Thankfully, you live in a relatively judgment free segment of society while you're at college, and by the end of it

you won't really care what all the out-of-touch, right wing, pundits have to say about your lifestyle. Homosexual sex does indeed exist and, if we're to believe scientific observation, more pleasurable than heterosexual sex, at least when applied to two dudes getting down.

And then, there's something that doesn't get talked about much in high school at all: multiple partner relationships. If you're the kind of person who finds it difficult to stay committed to one person, a polyamorous relationship probably isn't for you. It is not, as one might think, an excuse for one man to live amongst multiple insatiable whores, it actually is one person in a relationship with multiple others.

If you're the kind that (for some reason) really enjoys commitment, this might be for you. If you have trouble keeping one relationship going, you don't need two more.

Everybody in the world has a different idea of what "good sex" is. Now is your time to find out, because I guarantee you won't come in to college being the swaggering sex god you hoped you'd be by this point. Advice from someone who struggled to find their sexual identity freshman year: be a try-sexual, try everything and anything at least once.

Real talk

Why it's important to talk about what you're going through



Photo By: MCT Campus

Students should look into group or one on one counseling to deal with the stress of college. Do not be ashamed of your emotions and bottle them up look for help if you need it.



Sarah Force
Ferris State Torch

Fall Out Boy wasn't too far off when they said "we are like young volcanoes."

Let's be real, we all know that when placed under too much pressure, we tend to explode. Although college is supposed to be the best years of our lives, it also comes with its fair share of pressure.

Fortunately, there are ways to avoid said explosion. Like basic physics, the key is to release the pressure in a less eruptive, violent form. Hence, the term "venting."

Less scientifically, it's important for everyone, especially us college students, to talk about what we're going through. Let me tell you why. We carry enough weight on our shoulders at this point in our lives. If you have something bothering you that you have forced back down out of shame, pride, or fear, it's going to take a toll. It's going to brew inside you as more time passes on until it boils into an explosion and all of the sudden you find yourself screaming at the cashier at Meijer for bagging your dish soap with your eggs.

It can alter your focus at school and work. It can put you on edge around the people you love.

You might explode on other people, or you might even take it out on yourself. Don't start a mental war with yourself.

"Expressing feelings is one of the main ways that most people cope with their emotions, especially when the emotions are overwhelming," University counselor, MA, LLP, LPC Tom Liszewski said. "Expression can be verbal, but also through journaling, drawing, or meditating."

Don't ever be ashamed for being human. We all have feelings, we all get stressed out, and we all get upset over things. It doesn't make you weak. It doesn't

make you inferior. Anybody who makes you feel that way is only lying to themselves.

My advice to you and to anybody is just to talk to someone. Everyone has that one person they can trust with anything. Go to them and just vent. Listen to loud music, punch your pillow, make art, build something, or write. Just get it out and be human because we all have our moments. We all need to release the pressure that we accumulate at this age.

If you don't take my word for it, the friendly folks at the Ferris State Personal Counseling Center can provide some expert advice.

Liszewski recommends talking to a trusted friend, mentor, practicing mindfulness, prayer, or utilize the counseling center.

"The counseling centers research shows that about half the people resolve the problem that brought them into counseling," Liszewski said. "But here it the most important result of the research: no one reported getting worse with the emotional problem that brought them to counseling!"

From personal experience working at the counseling center last year, I can say with confidence that each counselor is very welcoming, easy to talk to, and most importantly, they genuinely care about your well-being.

If you are interested in seeing what they have to offer or just having someone to talk to, the Personal Counseling Center is located on the second floor of the Birkam Health Center. More information such as hours of operation can be found on the Ferris website.

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Ferris State University Welcome Events 2014 Bulldog Beginnings

#imabulldog

ferris.edu/bulldogbeginnings

Friday, Aug 22:

Bulldog Welcome

7:30-9pm
Top Taggart Field

Residence Hall Association Movie Night

9pm (dusk)
Top Taggart Field

Saturday, Aug 23:

Backyard Bash

Sponsored by the University Center
3-5pm
South Quad by The Rock Café

Meijer Madness

7-10pm
Meijer

Sunday, Aug 24:

Transitions to Success

Sponsored by the Office of Multicultural Student Services
1-5pm
IRC 120

Sunday, Aug 25:

Carnival in the Quad

Sponsored by Student Government Association and Entertainment Unlimited
12-4pm
North Quad by FLITE

Tuesday, Aug 26:

Social Fest Instagram Photo Challenge

Sponsored by University Advancement and Marketing
9am-3pm
South Quad by The Rock Café

Wednesday, Aug 27:

Bulldog Beats & Eats

Sponsored by the Center for Leadership, Activities and Career Services and Dining Services
6-8pm
South Quad by The Rock Café
Bring you blankets and chairs for a live concert on the lawn!

Thursday, Aug 28:

Founders' Day Celebration

3-7pm
North Quad by FLITE

Ice Cream Social

Sponsored by General Counsel
4-7pm
North Quad by FLITE

FSU 130th Birthday Silent Disco Dance Party

Sponsored by Entertainment Unlimited, Student Government Association, and the History Task Force
8:30pm
North Quad FLITE

Friday, Aug 29:

FLITE Disc Golf

2-5pm
FLITE Library

Cultural Connections Open House

Sponsored by the Center for Latin@ Studies, Office of International Education and Office of Multicultural Student Services
2-5pm
FLITE 159, IRC 134, IRC 131

Tuesday, Sept 2:

Rec Fest

Sponsored by University Recreation
5-8pm
Student Recreation Center

Wednesday, Sept 3:

Get Acquainted Day

Sponsored by Office of Multicultural Student Services
7-10pm
Student Rec Center

Thursday, Sept 4:

Ferris Olympics

Sponsored by Raquet and Fitness center
6-8pm
Racquet and Fitness Center

Additional sponsorship provided by Ferris State University's Office of Student Life, Division of Student Affairs and Pride Committee

All events are FREE and open to the public. For more information, visit ferris.edu/bulldogbeginnings or calendar.ferris.edu! Anyone with a disability needing special accommodations to attend these events should contact (231) 591-2685 or email CLACS@ferrisledu at least 72 hours in advance.