



Ferris State U  
**TO**  
Truth,  
accur

## Two found dead in murder-suicide involving member of Ferris staff

Keith Salowich  
Editor in Chief

Ferris media production part-time employee Gabriel Harkins, 33, shot and killed his 48-year-old girlfriend Kathleen Blackburn before killing himself Sunday, Jan. 29, according to numerous regional media sources.

According to his LinkedIn profile, Harkins graduated from Ferris in 2010 with an associate's degree in graphic design and also served as the campus adviser to Ferris' chapter of Phi Sigma Kappa from 2014-2015, in addition to his part-time work as a Ferris employee dating back to 2009.

Recent Ferris graphic design graduate Alex Johnson worked with Harkins last year in media production at FLITE Library.

"Gabe was a smart guy," Johnson said. "He was quiet and always seemed a little depressed, but he was always there to help me if I needed anything. He showed no indications of instability or an inclination for violence."

The *Torch* will provide updates as details emerge. The case is being investigated by the Mecosta County Sheriff's Department.

### HERE'S WHAT'S INSIDE

#### EXECUTIVE ORDER

Ferris President David Eisler issued a statement in response to President Donald Trump's immigration executive order.

#### NEWS | PAGE 2

#### INDIE MUSIC

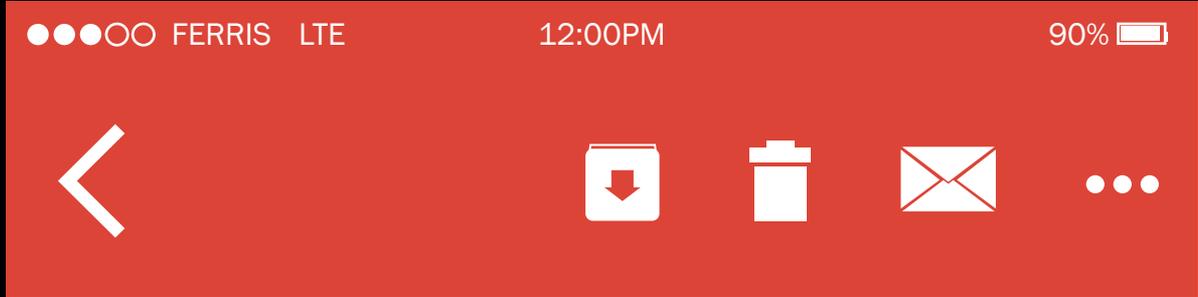
Bands handling their own business and producing their own music are coming to Ferris to perform and answer questions.

#### LIFESTYLES | PAGE 8

#### STILL KILLIAN IT

Ferris chemistry professor and men's basketball assistant coach Bill Killian has served at Ferris for over 30 years.

#### SPORTS | PAGE 13



# Sent from my iPhone

## Should professors and students communicate outside of the classroom?

Harley Harrison  
Torch Reporter

Communicating with professors outside of class does not have to be a painful chore or an awkward encounter like many students fear.

Every professor is different, but many agree that maintaining a level of professionalism is key to good communication.

Ferris second year pharmacy graduate student Heather Kakoz admitted that she had issues in her undergraduate program at a different school. However, she has never had an issue in the Ferris graduate program.

"In this professional program, they have always been very communicative with us and always had their door open for us to come in and talk to them or send them emails and they always respond quickly," Kakoz said.

way for me to receive an inquiry and respond," Ferris adjunct instructor Kayla Slezak said. "Students do not feel comfortable approaching an instructor for most issues face-to-face, during office hours or on a phone call. They would rather go back and forth with text or an email."

Ferris Arts and Sciences Dean Kristi Haik reflected on communication with students in her previous years as a professor, explaining the importance of respect between professors and students helps prepare students for their future jobs.



Laura Harrison

"There's no rule, there's no system, but it is part of the culture of being a professor that you talk to your students outside the classroom. Most of the time, in the classroom, there's very little opportunity for one-on-one interaction, and there has to be in any kind of teaching," Haik said. "There is a requirement that the professor has office hours, which is one example of when a student has the opportunity to speak with the professor. There's no rule about communicating with students because it is absolutely expected."

Ferris criminal justice freshman Laura Harrison agrees that communication is the most important part, not the method or the formality of it.

"It's still nice to know that they are not always so strict," Harrison said. "Outside of class, in person, they'll be really relaxed and they want you to do your best. They're really understanding and really kind about what they say. Even if it's not a formal email back, it's nice to know that they're human, too."

Despite the fear of awkward encounters, the consensus of both students and faculty is that maintaining a professional, yet friendly, form of communication outside of the classroom will play a key role in a student's success.

*There's no rule, there's no system, but it is part of the culture of being a professor, that you talk to your students outside the classroom.*

- Kristi Haik

The method of communication outside of the classroom varies from professor to professor, from simple texts to in-person discussions.

"I prefer students to text me, as that is the quickest



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# NEWS

“As a Ferris community, we should stand against Trump’s executive order,”  
- Antoinette Welch, see below for story

Angela Graf | News Editor | grafa1@ferris.edu

## Eisler on Executive Order

*University President advocates for equality and support in wake of President Donald Trump’s immigration executive order*

Keith Salowich and Angela Graf  
Torch Staff

President Donald Trump signed an executive order into action which prevents citizens from seven Muslim-majority countries from entering the United States for the next 90 days and bars refugees from entering the States for the next 120 days.

“To this point we have not received any requests for student records or immigration statuses,” said Ferris State University President David Eisler. “Should such a request be received we would at that time review the legal options available to us.”

The seven named countries are: Iran, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria and Yemen. As it currently stands, the order could also prohibit legal dual-citizens from re-entering America if they leave its borders. This has an affect on both study abroad and international students at Ferris State.

Ferris social work senior and Office of Multicultural Stu-

dent Services intern Antoinette Welch believes that Bulldogs everywhere should unite against the executive order in order to protect those that it may affect.

“Students should care about this because it’s taking away rights of humans. We have rights to our rights,” Welch said.

“As a Ferris community, we should stand against Trump’s executive order.”

The University of Michigan, Michigan State University and many other colleges across America issued statements that the immigration status of its students and staff would not be disclosed to the federal government in order to protect staff and students from the executive order.

“In an atmosphere of concerns expressed by faculty, students and staff, we thought it was important to affirm the university’s position,” said Eisler.

Eisler released a statement addressing the executive order and its potential effect on students Monday, Jan. 30.

“This order affects our international community here at Ferris State University and compromises the opportunities for study abroad, international travel and the employment and enrollment of faculty, staff and students,” Eisler said.

Eisler’s statement did not directly state whether or not the immigration status information of its staff and students would be disclosed.

“Our core values remain at the heart of this institution and its commitment to opportunity, diversity and equality for all. Together we will work through this period of uncertainty and provide the support and assistance our international students, faculty and staff need during this challenging time,” Eisler said.

Ferris Provost Paul Blake will be hosting a meeting with the Office of International Education and the Diversity and Inclusion Office in the coming week to address concerns on how this executive order may affect international students working or studying at Ferris. The time and date of the meeting has yet to be announced.



David Eisler

## Community-based learning

*Ferris faculty and staff improve classroom communities*

Harley Harrison  
Torch Reporter

Classroom communities can play a huge factor in a student’s ability to learn and feel confident in class. However, they are not always formed in many of our classes on campus.

Ferris instructional designer in the Faculty Center for Teaching and Learning Julie

Rowan is conducting a series of workshops for faculty and staff members to teach them how to create and maintain a community in the classroom.

“We have about a dozen participants and this will be a faculty learning community that meets six times over the course of this semester,” Rowan said. “The goal of the learning community is for faculty members and sometimes staff members, to come together and learn about a particular topic or idea that will be useful for them in their classes and as they work with students.”

While Rowan facilitates the learning community, she allows her participants to direct the topics discussed in order to better suit their needs.

“How do we take these ideas and use them in the classroom?” Rowan said. “They may have the opportunity to visit each other’s classrooms and kind of observe as we’re talking about different dynamics and

elements of community, and then talk to each other about that, which would deepen the exchange of ideas.”

Ferris professor of biology Dr. Kemi Fadayomi is planning on being an active participant in the class.



Kemi Fadayomi

“I’m very much interested in building communities because already there’s research out there to show that, when you have a community of learners, learning will take place,” Fadayomi said.

Both women agree that inclusion is essential to building a deep community in the classroom and is something that every classroom should strive for.

“Inclusion—making students feel comfortable, ensuring that they have some input

and being able to ask questions—those are all other elements of community and respecting diverse perspectives,” Rowan said.

Fadayomi and Rowan discussed the gravitational pull students unconsciously participate in by grouping themselves with people in the class that they already know.

“In my experience, I’ve had international students who don’t feel like they’re part of the classroom. When they put themselves in groups, they can’t find a group to join. They don’t feel welcome,” Fadayomi said. “I really want to stretch these ideas enough to make my classroom inclusive so that all students can see themselves as part of the classroom, so I’m not leaving any student behind.”

It is the goal of these women and other participants in the class, to address this issue and other factors that hinder a classroom community over the next few weeks so that all students can learn better and have more



### Isle Royale

Photographer Marilyn Kiegley presented her photography of Michigan’s Isle Royale as a part of the 2017 Festival of the Arts. The photos included indigenous flora, fauna and geographical landscapes.

Photo by: Aubrey Kemme | Multimedia Editor

# - ON THE RECORD -

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

## Shoving match

By Angela Graf - News Editor

### False alarm

Jan. 16, 8:55 p.m. officers responded to a marijuana complaint in Cramer Hall. No illegal activity was discovered and hall staff handled the incident.

### Not cool, dude

Jan. 17, 4:25 p.m. officers responded to a harassment complaint regarding a student receiving unwanted contact from an ex-boyfriend. A warrant was sent to the prosecutor's office.

### Collision course

Jan. 19, 11:22 a.m. officers responded to a report of a two-vehicle accident in Lot 36.

### You need those things

Jan. 19, 8:30 p.m. officers stopped a vehicle on Ferris Drive for expired plates. The driver was ticketed for the invalid plates as well as driving without insurance.

### False alarm 2.0

Jan. 19, 9 p.m. officers responded to a marijuana complaint in Clark Hall. No illegal activity was discovered and hall staff handled the incident.

### Knifed

Jan. 20, 2 p.m. officers assisted the city police with a stabbing that occurred at Appleridge Apartments. At 3:04 p.m. the same day, the suspected was apprehended by a Ferris officer on 205th Avenue, south of 15 Mile Road.

### Going to get decked

Jan. 21, 1:30 p.m. officers responded to a threat complaint in Bond Hall. The victim reported that the suspect was threatening to punch them. The suspect was identified, contacted, referred to the Office of Student Conduct and had a warrant sent to the prosecutor's office.

### Shoving match

Jan. 21, 9:15 p.m. officers responded to a report of assault outside the Ferris Sports Complex. Witnesses reported seeing a male and female exit the building and shoving each other before the female was pushed to the ground. Both were identified and referred to the Office of Student Conduct as well as a warrant being sent to the prosecutor's office.

### Zero hits landed

Jan. 22, 10:25 p.m. officers responded to a verbal argument in Lot 35 near the College of Business. No assault had occurred and the suspects were contacted and told to stop yelling at each other in public.

### Rocking in Lot 28

Jan. 22, 6:20 a.m. officers responded to a report of a vehicle damaged in Lot 28. A rock had been thrown through one of the windows, causing it to break.

### Lights out, bud out

Jan. 23, 9:15 p.m. officers stopped a vehicle on Perry Avenue near State Street for driving without headlights on. The driver was found to be in possession of marijuana and was lodged in jail.

### See above

Jan. 24, 12:05 a.m. officers stopped a vehicle on State Street for driving without headlights on. The driver was found to be in possession of marijuana and was referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

### Conflict in Granger

Jan. 24, 9:35 a.m. officers responded to a harassment complaint between two students in the Granger building. The suspect was identified and referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

The Ferris Department of Public Safety issued 443 parking violations between the dates of Jan. 19 and Jan. 25, totaling \$4,995.



Photo by: Andrea Cordes | Torch Photographer

Ferris alumnus Ira Childress, and current athletic director at Okemos High School, returned to Big Rapids to deliver a speech on "How to Manage Winning and Losing: in Life and in Sport."

# Winning and losing

## Ferris alum returns to share wisdom

Kip Biby

Torch Reporter

Whether you are an athlete or not, life is full of wins and losses. Last week, some Ferris students got insight on how to deal with both.

Ira Childress graduated from Ferris with a communications degree and is currently the athletic director at Okemos High School. He returns to Big Rapids every year to deliver his speech, "How to Manage Winning and Losing: in Life and in Sport."

"It's always great to be back at Ferris State University, my alma mater," Childress said.

Childress made it a point to thank his former professor, Dr. Sandy Alspach, who is still a professor here

at Ferris.

"I can still hear [Dr. Alspach] in my ear some days, telling me what to do, how to do it and when to do it," Childress said.

In addition to Childress' degree, he was also active on Ferris' football team and was a Ferris administrator. Childress credits experiences at Ferris as the launching pad to his career in the world of sports.

The body of the speech outlined six key components of life's journey: long term vision, preparation, failure, perseverance, prosperity and reinvention of your goals and self.

Perseverance is no strange concept to Childress as he has had to deal with issues of poverty while attend-

Winning | see page 4

# NEWS BRIEFS

By Angela Graf - News Editor

### Honors art show

For the tenth consecutive year, works of art created by Ferris' honors students will be on display for students and community members to vote for and enjoy. Students can use any medium they want, and prizes are given for "Judges' Favorite" and "Crowd Favorite." The event will be held in the Pickell Hall Lobby 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 2.

### Career Center Walk-ins

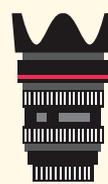
Career Center Walk-ins are part of the Career Clinics for the Spring 2017 Career and Internship Fair. Students can receive assistance with editing their resume and cover letter as well as getting answers to questions regarding internships and entering the work force after college. The event will be 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday, Feb. 6, in UCB 121.

## Ferris State Torch Corrections

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# More than bows and backflips

## Cheer team hosts event for campus to get active

Andrea Lenhart

Torch Reporter

The Ferris cheer team hosted a zumba and yoga class with traveling instructor Shannon Maconi Saturday Jan. 28, in the Wink arena, and it was more than a typical workout.

After the workout, the cheer team had a different view about yoga.

“I hope that people take away what she talked about during yoga,” said Ferris criminal justice senior and vice president Briana Pierson. “[Maconi] said some important things that people forget about. Like loving each other and love and kindness are important in life, and there isn’t enough of it in the world, we need to see the light in other people.”

According to Ferris criminal justice senior and president Melissa Henderson, Marconi claims that a lot of stress comes from the negative views we have of ourselves, not even reflecting on other people, and it is important that people love every part of their bodies.

“We are trying to stay active, and being students on campus, you should try to find a fun way to stay active,” said Ferris cheer coach Danielle Lee.

“It was challenging because she says not to judge, but then you watch her do the yoga poses and you can’t do them nearly as well as she can,” Henderson said. “It’s weird to think of how flexible and strong you think your body is and then you do yoga and you realize just how hard yoga really is.”

According to Lee, there were 19 students that attended the event with the cheer team and they are brainstorming ideas for another session at Ferris.

“She is already planning on coming back to Ferris. We just have to plan it all out, but we are thinking about maybe doing it outside when it’s sunny,” Lee said.

Henderson and Pierson hope that in the future they get a bigger turnout. They both said they had more fun than they expected to have.

Ferris’ Racquet and Fitness Center offers a weekly Zumba class from 6-7 p.m. every Monday. Students can pay \$2.50 to drop in on a class or \$15 for the full session of classes.



Photo by: Aubrey Kemme | Multimedia Editor

Traveling fitness instructor Shannon Marconi ran the cheer team’s hour-long event composed of 30 minutes of Zumba and 30 minutes of yoga.



Photo by: Aubrey Kemme | Multimedia Editor

Nineteen students participated in the fitness classes, hosted by the Ferris cheer team in an effort to keep students active during the cold months.



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### Winning

Continued from page 3

ing Ferris State, causing Childress to leave school for a semester.

“When I was here at Ferris, there was a time when I had to completely drop out of school. I walked into [Dr. Alspach’s] office and said, ‘this is my situation, this is my circumstance, I have to leave now.’ I was looking failure right in the face,” Childress said.

After returning to Ferris, Childress took on the challenge of taking 20 credit hours to get caught up. That

semester, Childress finished with honors.

About 25 people were in attendance of Childress’ speech. Alex Freeman, a Ferris psychology and sports communication senior, heard about the event from being involved in the Sports Careers organization.

“I really enjoyed it. [Childress] is a very driven person and it was refreshing to hear a unique perspective. He is so motivated to get stuff done and continue to advance himself,” Freeman said.

The event was held Wednesday, Jan. 27, in the IRC. This was a part of the Sports Communication Organization’s Sports Speakers Series.



Photo by: Kaitlyn Kirchner | Torch Photographer

Ferris business data analytics junior Chrissy Melton-Davis lead the College Positive Volunteer training program for the Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs organization.

# GEAR UP and make a difference

## Students helping students go to college

Andrea Lenhart  
Torch Reporter

Ferris business data analytics junior Chrissy Melton-Davis is leading the Ferris team of volunteers for the Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP) organization. It is a program for Ferris students to be the voice for high school students and encourage them to attend college.

To be in the program, Ferris students must

go through College Positive Volunteer training (CPV), which is offered twice a month and RSOs may request Melton-Davis to attend one of their meetings for training.

According to Melton-Davis, it sounded like something she wanted to do when she read the job description.

“It was similar to what I was doing at home, so I wanted to continue to give back,” Melton-Davis said. “My mom was a first generation college student. I understand that

she did not have a person to push her to go to college, so I want to be someone else’s push to go to college.”



Imani Meeks

Ferris currently has nearly 150 CPVs.

CPVs volunteer to help out with events that GEAR UP hosts for students, chaperone college visits and facilitate summer camps.

GEAR UP’s motto is: “Where are you going to college, and how can I help you get there?” and their mindset is “college is attainable for everyone.”

Ferris healthcare system administration junior and CPV student leader Imani Meeks believes that this program helps with Ferris admissions.

“It may not be the biggest help for admissions but it does help,” Meeks said. “Volunteers do not persuade them to attend Ferris, but they do feel a connection because they already know Ferris students.”

According to Melton-Davis, the goal is to

push secondary education. Whether it’s at Ferris or a different college, helping one helps all, and education is important for everyone.

“As a collegestudent, we don’t pay \$22,000 to not give back. Giving back helps CPVs more than it actually affects the students. It makes us feel good, it’s something we want to do, it’s not forced. CPVs will benefit from it by seeing people from all different walks from life,” Melton-Davis said.

According to Melton-Davis, every CPV will come into contact with a student with whom they can really impact and make a difference.

“We are always welcoming CPVs from all majors and all walks of life. We love our CPVs and we love our students,” Melton-Davis said.

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## 2017 MAY COMMENCEMENT

Friday, May 5, 2017 and Saturday, May 6, 2017

Ewigleben Sport Complex (Wink Arena)

College	Contact	Phone #	Location
Health Professions	Richelle Williams	(231) 591-2263	VFS 210
Arts & Sciences	Barb Hampel	(231) 591-3660	ASC 3052
Business (Undergrad Students on & off-campus)	Carri Griffis	(231) 591-2493	BUS 200
Business (Graduate Students)	Shannon Yost	(231) 591-2168	BUS 200E
Education & Human Services	Jennie Stange	(231) 591-2700	BIS 604
Engineering Technology	Deb Ducat	(231) 591-2961	JHN 200
Optometry	Michelle Aldrich	(231) 591-3700	MCO 236
Pharmacy	Tara Lee	(231) 591-3780	PHR 105
DCCL	Megan Biller	(231) 591-2710	ALU 113

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**Caps and Gowns** may be purchased at the Grad Fair on March 28th, 11:00 am - 5:00pm in the University Center - Multi Purpose Rooms or starting March 28th - May 3rd, 2017 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 (6) six tickets. Electronic tickets will be available for students to reserve or print starting March 28, 2017. Extra tickets are not distributed and lost tickets will not be replaced. Tickets must be reserved by Thursday, May 4, 2017 at 11:59 pm.  
**Commencement Program** - Graduates must complete their online graduation application by **Friday, February 24, 2017 for their names to appear in the Spring 2017 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.

Friday, May 5	
Time	College
3:30 pm	College of Health Professions
7:00 pm	College of Arts & Sciences College of Pharmacy Doctorate in Community College Leadership
Saturday, May 6	
Time	College
9:00 am	College of Engineering & Technology
12:30 pm	College of Business
4:00 pm	College of Education & Human Services Michigan College of Optometry

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



# LIFESTYLES

“It’s really an educational thing, and it’s super cool to see these bands following their dreams.” - Kat Cody See page 8 for story

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



Photo by: Aubrey Kemme | Multimedia Editor

Ferris students and guests participate in the festivities on the Lunar New Year, making origami cranes out of colorful paper in the IRC connector.



Photo by: Aubrey Kemme | Multimedia Editor

Drummers from Kalamazoo-based Michigan Hiryu Daiko perform for the crowd enjoying in the IRC Connector to celebrate the Lunar New Year and ring in the year of the dog.

# The Year of the Rooster

## Asian Student Organization hosts Lunar New Year celebration

Matthew Miller  
Torch Reporter

The Lunar New Year is one of the most important celebrations on the Chinese calendar and this year marks the Year of the Rooster.

The Asian Student Organization (ASO) held the Lunar New Year/Chinese New Year celebration Friday, Jan. 22, at the IRC with a DJ, a drum performance by Kalamazoo-based Michigan Hiryu Daiko and an eclectic array of food.

The Lunar New Year is traditionally celebrated by many Asian cultures late January to early February. As the lunar and standard solar calendars rarely align, the Lunar New Year often shifts around. This year’s celebration is held Sat-

urday, Jan. 28, to Thursday, Feb. 2, according to Chinese tradition.

Each year of the Chinese Zodiac is represented by an animal, and 2017 is the Year of the Rooster, personifying fidelity, trustworthiness, punctuality and a strong sense of time keeping at work.

Kalamazoo’s Lorry Norrix high school freshman Wyatt Harris was one of the talented drummers that performed at this year’s event. Harris enjoys learning about the culture of Japan and the art of taiko—the drums.

“I love the energy of when I am drumming,” Harris said. “It’s some next level stuff to me.”

With the help of the Office of Multicultural Student Services (OMSS), ASO were able to bring a bit of Asian culture

to Ferris State.

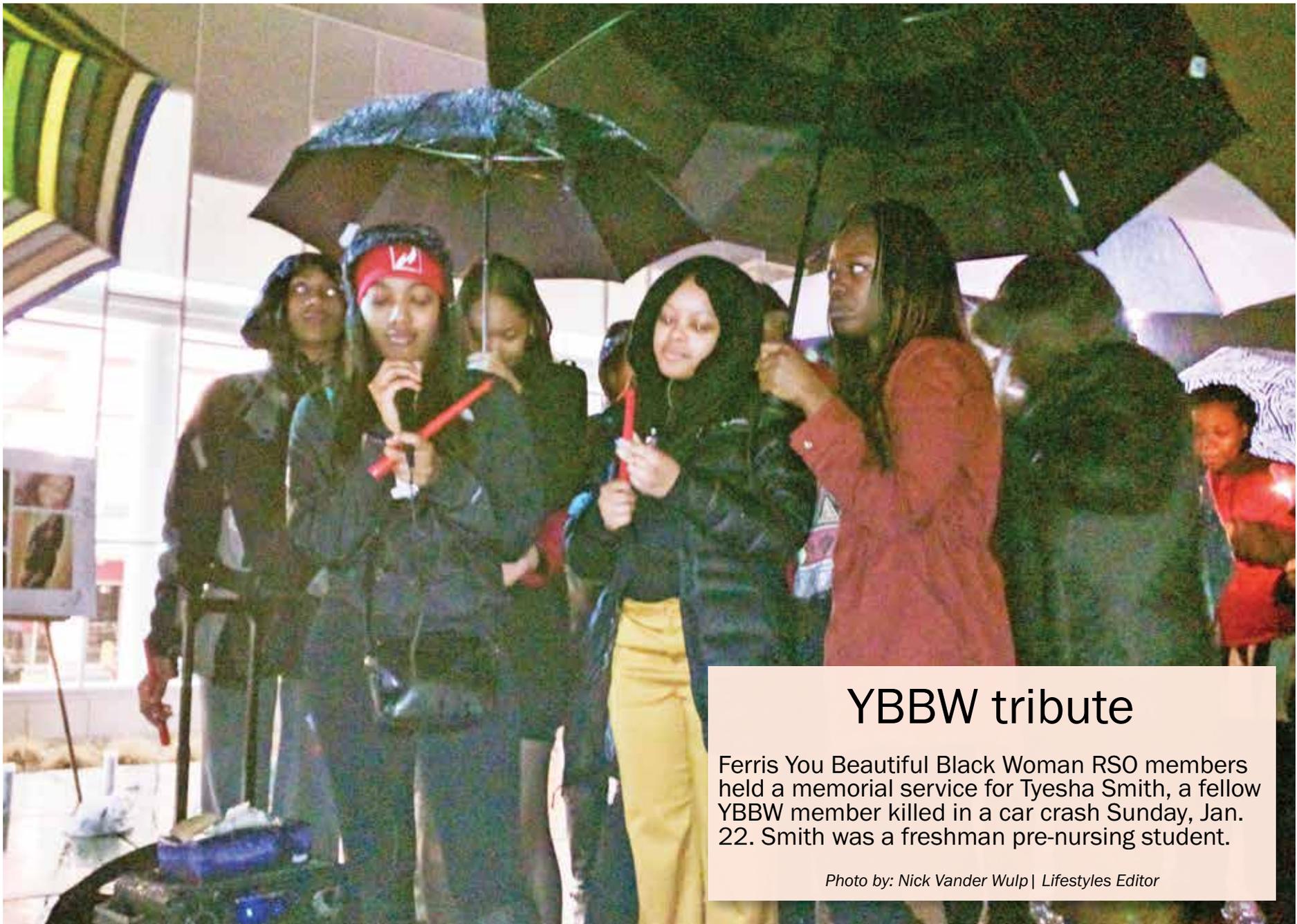
Ferris pre-medicine junior Cindy Tran is president of ASO and the overseer of the event. Tran said the task was “fun but stressful.”

“I hope everyone has fun and experiences a bit of Asia, from food to music,” Tran said.

The Lunar New Year celebration is celebrated similarly to our New Year here in the United States. Families and friends celebrate with food, music and drinks.

Many different Asian cultures celebrate the Lunar New Year with happy hopes of having a better year than the one before.

The Chinese calendar operates on a 12-year cycle. Next year will be represented as the Year of the Dog.



## YBBW tribute

Ferris You Beautiful Black Woman RSO members held a memorial service for Tyesha Smith, a fellow YBBW member killed in a car crash Sunday, Jan. 22. Smith was a freshman pre-nursing student.

Photo by: Nick Vander Wulp | Lifestyles Editor

## There's an app for that

*Students who have used cell-phones since childhood become immersed in an app-filled world*

Alicia Jaimes  
Torch Reporter

Mobile phones have become a major part of our lives, and boast a wide variety of ways to organize our days, stay in touch with people we care about and entertain ourselves.

From browsing on Pinterest to checking important dates in her calendar, Ferris elementary education sophomore Aubrey Hodson, like many Ferris students, uses her phone for just about everything.

"I got my first phone when I was 10," Hodson said. "I socialize using the apps that I do. I also use them to stay in touch with family."

Hodson spends her time between classes on Facebook or Snapchat—her most used apps.

"The best app, I would say, is Facebook," said Ferris social work junior Nick Hadley. "It lets me keep in touch with family and those that I do not see every day."

Aside from using his phone to connect with high school classmates, Hadley also has a Blackboard app for school assignments as well as an app called REC\*IT for recreational sports.

While the majority of apps on students' phones are for socializing, Ferris professional golf management sophomore Julie Schut enjoys using her cell phone for more practical purposes.



Aubrey Hodson

"I think the best app to have on your phone is a banking app so you can keep track of your finances at all times and avoid surprises," Schut said.

Ferris professional tennis management senior Michael Manning is another student who uses his phone for finance purposes.

"Venmo," Manning said. "Not too many of my friends have it, but it's basically an app that lets you pay people over the app. It's super convenient for bills if you're splitting those with roommates."

Sharing bills with roommates is not Manning's first experience with sharing. At age 12, Manning went from sharing a phone with his brother to using his own for a source of music, communication and updates on Big Rapids weather.

"I get entertainment out of my music app (and) for discovering new music," Manning said. "Social media, when you think about it, is pointless. But I feel like I'd be out of the loop if I wasn't on those."

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# Don't let the opportunities pass you by

## AMA-hosted networking event connects campus

Tia-Jane' Oakes  
Torch Reporter

Creating the opportunity for other students to network was the goal for student organizers of the American Marketing Association's (AMA) Network and Opportunities Summit on campus.

Nearly 20 students from the college of business were present to hear representatives from sponsors such as Aflac Insurance, TekSystems, Staples and Northwestern Mutual speak about their companies and what they do.

According to entrepreneur.com, networking is defined as developing and maintaining contacts for business purposes beyond initial personal contact.

"We wanted students to be face-to-face with our sponsors, which will give them the opportunity to talk to future employers about whatever they want," said Ferris marketing junior Trevor Holowaty.

During the summit, representatives from TekSystems said that students who are interested in working with people as a part of their career should get in the habit of networking and reaching out to different companies.

The Networking and Opportunities Summit was developed to help students get comfortable with making professional contacts and interacting with others to find mutual connections.

"I've prepared myself to network with the help of AMA professional events," said Ferris human resources management junior Chelsea Crandall.

Northwestern Mutual campus recruiter Stephanie Mellinger said that networking is important because it gives people the opportunity to learn more information about a company.

"Being able to network while in school can show companies that students are serious and willing to put the work in," Crandall said.

Sponsors at the summit claimed companies are currently looking for millennials with college degrees because they bring a lot of energy and a fluency with technology.

The Network and Opportunities seminar was 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 26, in the Business building.

For more information about events hosted by AMA, visit [amaferris.org](http://amaferris.org)



Photo by: Kaitlyn Kirchner | Torch Photographer

Ferris business administration junior Hunter Jacobs is taking full advantage of the networking event.

# Great Debaters

## OMSS movie night kicks off Black History Month

Alexandra Bourne  
Torch Reporter

Texas' Wiley College professor of languages and literature Melvin B. Tolson inspired students to form the historically black college's first debate team.

The Office of Multicultural Student Services (OMSS) will show the film "Great Debaters," based on this true story, to kick off Black History Month 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 1, in University Center room 202A.

"Members of our campus community that have an interest in historically-based films will be drawn to come out," said Ferris OMSS assistant director Michael Wade. "We feel that the message is inspiring as it depicts college students making history."

The award-winning Wiley College debate team participated in the first interracial debate ever permitted. The team went on to defeat the reigning national debate champions, becoming the first African-American debate team to do so.

"The film highlights trailblazers in the field of debate, and it is important to expose our students to those in history

that were leaders and who made a difference," Wade said.

The 2007 film was directed by Denzel Washington and stars Washington alongside Forrest Whitaker, Jurnee Smollett and Nate Parker. RottenTomatoes gave the film a 79 percent "fresh" rating, while audiences awarded it an 86 percent approval, according to that website.

The film features some graphic content, such as Tolston and the students discovering the lynching of a black man. It holds a PG-13 rating.

"I am always excited to learn more about Black History Month, and specifically the contributions that African-Americans made to make this country great in the past and in the present," Wade said.

The OMSS will also host two other events, a guest speaker 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 9, in IRC 120, and a student tribute 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 22, in the UC Lobby. All the events are free and open to the public.



Michael Wade

# Rage Against the Mainstream

## Indie music event makes debut

Nick Vander Wulp  
Torch Reporter

Bands handling their own business and producing their own music are coming to Ferris to perform and answer questions about their craft.

"The Indie Showcase is when all independent artists come to Ferris State University. So, that means they do all their own management, tour managing, recording and whatever else. Also, they're not signed to a label," said Ferris music industry management senior Kat Cody.

Indie Showcase will give students at Ferris an in-depth look at what these performers do, not just musically but every day as independent artists.

The performances will each be an hour long, and will feature another hour-long question and answer session for students to pick the brains of the performers for information relating to performing, business, band management and any other related information students want to know.

"In the music industry, there's no one defined road that you have to go down," Cody said. "There's so many different roads. Bands have a bunch of different ways of rising to success, so every band

has a different story, and I want to make sure people are aware of that. It's really an educational thing, and it's super cool to see these bands following their dreams."

### SHOW INFORMATION

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BUS 111

# Defining student success

Speaker series helps students organize their lives

Adrianna Walker

Torch Reporter

The evergreen question of what it takes to be a successful student rears its head again as Ferris' Academic Support Center kicks off its speaker series.

The speaker series, designed to help students navigate college's challenges, began with "Go Big or Go Home: 10 Habits of Highly Effective Students" Tuesday, Jan. 31.

Balancing a busy college schedule can be daunting. The American College Health Association found in its 2014 National College Health Assessment that 30 percent of students claim stress has affected their academic performance overall. Additionally, more than 85 percent of students reported feeling "overwhelmed by all they had to do" while one-fifth reported having sleep difficulties that also affected their academic performance.

These statistics won't be surprising for many students. Class, work, internships, RSOs, sleep (or lack thereof), social time (also maybe lacking) and more activities make up a standard student schedule and often lack sufficient time management.

As the helpful speaker series begins, some Ferris students took the time to share their own effective habits, tips and don'ts for getting through college.

Ferris hospitality management senior Jodie Yuncker likes to keep her busy schedule of class and RSO meetings written down and planned out, even down to her gym time.

"Some of my own successful habits are to get my work done before the due date so I am not worried and having to cram the work in last minute," said Yuncker.

Yuncker's advice for freshman is pretty straightforward: don't procrastinate and always have a schedule prepared.

"This will not only help them be successful, but it will

relieve stress that could build up if they make sure to stick to the schedule they addressed for themselves," Yuncker said.

Ferris social work senior Morgan Simons also had some veteran advice for younger students.

"Keep the partying to a minimum," Simons said. "I know that it's fun and that you're meeting all these new people so the temptation is there, but it's important to remember that you're here at Ferris for education."

Simons also suggested taking full advantage of the tutoring center, located in the Arts and Science Commons, and taking personal time to decompress.

"You really need to take time out for self-care," Simons said. "Grades are important, but your mental, emotional and physical health are way more important."

One of the most common tips among students is to keep a personal schedule of responsibilities.

"By keeping a record of everything I need to do, I can keep my schedule less cluttered," said Ferris music industry management junior Hunter Gamble. "It really helps to put everything down in a planner."

Gamble says spreading his workload throughout the semester is a lot less stressful than staying up all night during finals, and a peaceful environment for studying can go a long way.

"As much as we'd rather be at home when we study, finding a quiet room at FLITE is much more efficient," Gamble said.

Finishing homework before socializing is the smartest route, even though other activities may seem more tempting.

"I've been talked in to going out last minute to Schuberg's for burgers or to hang out at a friend's house a few too many times," Gamble said. "It takes a lot of stress off to finish your work before going out."

The next event in the Academic Support Center's speaker series will be "Student Health: Hot Topics for the College Student" Tuesday, Feb. 14.



Graphic by: Sarah Massey | Production Assistant

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# SPORTS

"We may be competing separately without passing balls or without communicating during a race, in fact, we may not even be in a race with anyone from our team, but it is very important to be unified as a team," - Logan Hammer See page 13 for story

Apply now! | Sports Editor

## 30 years in, still Killian it



Photo by: Samantha Dow | Torch Photographer

Ferris chemistry professor and men's basketball assistant coach Bill Killian has been teaching and coaching at Ferris for over three decades and has helped the team to an 18-3 overall record this season.

### Bill Killian teaches in the classroom and on the court

Beau Jensen

Torch Reporter

Assistant coach Bill Killian is a veteran Bulldog professor who teaches in the classroom and the gym.

Bill Killian has been a Bulldog professor since 1987, three decades of teaching chemistry courses by day and coaching basketball by night.

An assistant coach for the Ferris State men's basketball program under Head Coach Andy Bronkema, Killian entered his 15th straight year as an assistant for the Dawgs for the 2016-17 season. Killian, from Chicago, Ill., attended North Park College where he was a dual-sport athlete in both basketball and baseball.

As a current Ferris State professor, balancing life on the court and life in the classroom is not an easy task, but Killian's dedication to

the program is evident.

"I travel for any away games where I don't have to miss a class," Killian said. "So sometimes that means I have to drive by myself after I finish the class and take off, but yeah I make most of the away games through that little clever maneuver."

Coach Killian's philosophy on teaching and coaching are very similar. There is a common theme of improvement, no matter who he's instructing.

"It's a lot of the same thing, everybody is trying to get better at what they're doing, whether they're in the classroom or whether they're on the court," Killian said. "That's what I'm there to support, getting better at what you do, whether it's classwork or it's work on the court."



Zach Hankins

When Killian is on the court, he said that his role is to develop individual skills and prep the men for the game, being Bronkema's sounding board. With nearly 25 total years as an assistant for the Bulldogs, Killian has seen a number of head coaches and athletes come through the program.

Sophomore post Zach Hankins spoke highly of Killian as someone who brings a ton of experience to the program.

"He is the guy that pulls you aside for a second and tells you something he saw that you could do better, then encourages you to keep working hard," Hankins said. "Sometimes he will catch something the other team is doing in a game and advise our head coach with an idea of how to counter it, but mostly he's just some-



Quentin Ruff

one that brings a smile to the court and pulls everyone else up with him."

Senior wing Quentin Ruff has been under Coach Killian's instruction for all four of his years on the court for Ferris, and he feels as if Killian brings a lot of knowledge to the team. Ruff gave one word that he thought exemplified Killian.

"Intelligence. I feel that since he has been around the game for so long, he has been on the losing and winning side of things, so he knows how to handle certain situations," Ruff said. "He just sits back and watches from a different perspective."

As one of the longest tenured current coaches for the Ferris State athletics program, Killian's high energy and devotion to the craft of learning, on or off the court, shines through as the men's basketball program continues to dominate.

# Top Dawg

Renee Sturm



Photo by: Aubrey Kemme | Multimedia Editor

Keith Salowich

Editor in Chief

There's a storm brewing on the Ferris women's basketball team's roster, and fans will have the privilege of watching "Hurricane Renee" for the next four years.

Ferris freshman guard Renee Sturm

hit an efficient 14 points by going 3-4 from the floor at Northern Michigan and 3-5 while netting three free throws at Michigan Tech in the Bulldogs' weekend efforts. Sturm also tallied four rebounds and three assists, and did not turnover the ball in that span.

Sturm, a 5-foot-9 force from Williamston averages 23 minutes per game in her first year on the court for the Bull-

dogs. The team currently only fields one senior, so Sturm and the rest of the underclassmen have been asked to step up quickly throughout Ferris' 4-16 season.

Ferris State will next see action when they host Saginaw Valley State 6 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 2, before heading to Wayne State 1 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 4.

## Sports Shorts

By Keith Salowich - Editor in Chief

### Sign on the dotted line

There will be no sound sweeter than the hum of the fax machine for Ferris football on National Signing Day this Wednesday, Feb. 1.

Head Coach Tony Annese and the rest of the Bulldog coaching staff have worked for months to draw a fresh batch of young talent from around the country to Ferris. These efforts will be rewarded on National Signing Day, when high school recruits submit their signed letters of intent to their chosen schools.

Last season, the Bulldogs signed 26 players, finished 9-2 overall in the regular season and won three playoff games to reach the NCAA Div. 2 national semifinals. This coming year, the Bulldogs will look to make a playoff run for the fourth consecutive time.

### Turning on the Jet's

Ferris State athletes finished with 19 top-eight finishes in the non-scoring Saginaw Valley State Jet's Pizza Invitational Friday, Jan. 27, and Saturday, Jan. 28.

The men and women's teams squared off against 12 other schools and several other club teams.

Ferris' Emily Haynes ran the 3,000 meters in 17:38.79, which was good for a second place finish. Fellow Bulldogs Kathryn Etelamaki and Racheal McDonald finished close behind in third and fourth place, respectively.

Ferris middle distance runner Molly Emerick achieved an NCAA Div. 2 national provisional qualification time and finished third in the 800 meters by clocking a time of 2:13.84.

Meanwhile, the FSU men's distance medley team of Logan Hammer, Chris Triffo, John Alberts and Ethan Israels finished first with a time of 10:51.06. In field events, Bulldog Cody Stilwell took first in the weight throw with a 58-3.25 toss and teammate John Cook tied for first in the high jump with a 6-6 leap.

The teams will next see action at the Grand Valley State Big Meet Friday, Feb. 10, and Saturday, Feb. 11, in Allendale.

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# Oh, young glove

## Ferris softball team prepares for season under new head coach

Brendan Samuels

Torch Reporter

With Valentine's day right around the corner, couples around the world will be purchasing diamonds in hopes of things to come. The Ferris State University softball team however, has their eye on a much larger diamond covered in fresh cut grass.

With the team's first outing of the season set for Friday, Feb. 24, against McKendree in the Midwest Region Crossover, the Bulldogs have been preparing for the season opener in the midst of a coaching change.

In late August of 2016, Ferris announced the resignation of then Head Coach Wally King and appointed Adam Kirkpatrick, who was an assistant under King, interim head coach.

The fact that Kirkpatrick was an assistant under King seems comforting to Ferris softball players.

"Not much has changed," said senior Kayti Carlson, who is serving as student assistant for the Bulldog softball team this season. "Drills continue to be fast paced and Coach Kirkpatrick has done a very good job at keeping the team focused. The transition from Coach

King to Coach Kirkpatrick has been smooth because their methods are the same."



Kayti Carlson

Last season was extremely successful for the Bulldogs as they went 36-18 under King. Kirkpatrick will need to prepare his Bulldogs if he wishes to meet that mark as well.

"Coach Kirkpatrick understands what it takes," said sophomore outfielder Jaclyn Stone. "He is especially good at getting us to focus on the mental aspects of the game, not just the physical aspects. We know how to deal with adversity and I believe that this Bulldog team will come back just as strong, if not stronger than last year."



Jaclyn Stone

Transitioning from one coach to another can be a difficult thing to do for most teams, but the Bulldogs softball team seems poised to win, regardless of who is at the helm.

Transitioning from one coach to another can be a difficult thing to do for most teams, but the Bulldogs softball team seems poised to win, regardless of who is at the helm.



Photo by: Kaitlyn Kirchner | Torch Photographer

Coming off a 1-1 series split with the highest scoring team in the WCHA, Ferris are looking ahead to No. 2 Michigan Tech.

# High stakes Dawg fight

## Bulldogs look ahead to series with MTU

Cody Burkhard

Torch Reporter

Ferris will look to play spoiler against WCHA No. 2 Michigan Tech during the Huskies' Winter Carnival with playoff seeding on the line this weekend.

The Bulldogs split the past weekend series with the WCHA No. 4 Bowling Green Falcons Friday, Jan. 28, and Saturday, Jan. 29, losing the first game 3-2 in overtime. Overtime was out of the question after the second period of the second game when Ferris bulled its way in front of the net for four of their five goals in a shutout victory.

Ferris Head Coach Bob Daniels said, "This is the first night, I think, we played well from start to finish."

Scoring consistency has been a problem for the Dawgs most of the season, but that was no issue Saturday, Jan. 29, with all five goals coming from right in front of the crease. Senior forward Gerald Mayhew and junior forward Mitch Maloney had a goal and an assist each in a game where five different Bulldogs scored.

"We finally got the bounces going for us," Maloney said. "We played a couple nice, solid games that we didn't get rewarded for. It's nice to finally get rewarded with a win."

Daniels has reiterated the past few weeks that his team has played great hockey in terms of moving the puck and setting up great shots. However, untimely penalties and unfortunate bounces have plagued the Dawgs.

"There were times tonight where [Bowling Green] would clear the puck and it would hit a stick or a skate of ours and ricocheted right to one of our guys. I swear all year we do that and it ricocheted to them. Part of it is making your own luck, but it worked in our favor tonight," Daniels said.

The Bulldogs will look to build on the momentum of this past weekend when they take on the Huskies in Houghton during Michigan Tech's Winter Carnival.

The Huskies have won their last seven Winter Carnival games dating back to the 2012-13 season by a combined score of 31-9. They have been locked in on their hockey version of homecoming and sport an impressive record, but this wouldn't be the first time Ferris has cut Tech's celebrations short.

The Dawgs and Huskies split the 2015-16 regular season series. Tech took the first match 5-1 Oct. 16. Ferris responded with a 3-2 victory Oct 17.

Splitting series became the status quo for the Bulldogs last year as they hovered around .500 until a late season push landed them at the No. 4 seed for the WCHA tournament. They dispatched Northern Michigan in two games of a three-game quarterfinal series before meeting the Huskies again in the semifinals.

Ferris took down No. 1 seed Michigan Tech 1-0. The Bulldogs went on to win the WCHA tournament and finished in the Elite Eight of the NCAA tournament.

Michigan Tech has many signature wins this year including a 5-1 victory against Michigan State, a 4-0 shutout against Minnesota State, and a weekend sweep of Bowling Green. Regardless of Tech's current accolades, Maloney said Bulldog grit could overcome the Huskies' talent.

"Tech's a talented team like they've been in the past, but I think our grit versus their talent is a good combination and makes for some pretty good games," Maloney said.

"Usually, grit gets the upper hand because they go in and out work them."

Daniels believes the game will be a fast paced battle where his team will need to play smart.

Daniels said, "On those road games, you don't want to get in the box and let the crowd get into it. We have to be a smart road team."

With six games left in the season, the Bulldogs are 8-11-3 in conference and are tied with Lake Superior State for No. 5 with 29 points. Michigan Tech sits at No. 2 with 48 points, four points behind Bemidji State. The Huskies are in position to climb to No. 1 with a series left to play with Bemidji and last place Northern Michigan in addition to the Bulldogs.

Tech has no threat of being knocked out of the playoffs, but Ferris is only five points separated from No. 8 Alabama Huntsville. If the Dawgs get swept again, they could be in danger of sitting at home watching the postseason unfold.

The first game starts 7:07 p.m. Friday, Feb. 10, with the second 5:07 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 11.



Mitch Maloney



Bob Daniels

## WCHA STANDINGS

1.	Bemidji State	16 - 4 - 2	52 PTS
2.	Michigan Tech	13 - 3 - 6	48 PTS
3.	Minnesota State	11 - 7 - 4	39 PTS
4.	Bowling Green	12 - 11 - 1	38 PTS
5.	<b>Ferris State</b>	<b>8 - 11 - 3</b>	<b>29 PTS</b>
	Lake Superior State	8 - 10 - 4	29 PTS
7.	Alaska	7 - 10 - 3	27 PTS
8.	Alabama Huntsville	7 - 12 - 3	24 PTS
9.	Alaska Anchorage	4 - 11 - 5	19 PTS
10.	Northern Michigan	5 - 12 - 3	19 PTS

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FERRIS STATE UNIVERSITY



Graphic by: Sarah Massey | Production Assistant

# Countdown to Super Sunday

## Predicting the outcome of the Super Bowl



Cody Burkhard  
Torch Reporter

The New England Patriots are the overwhelming favorites to win Super Bowl LI according to a poll of Ferris students.

23 of the 26 students polled are rolling with America's most hated team to beat the Atlanta Falcons Sunday, Feb. 5.

Ferris finance junior Mike Howard said, "You can't go against Bill Belichick and Tom Brady."

This game will not be as lopsided as the poll results. I believe this will be a tightly contested barn burner with the game on the line late. Will it be Matty Ice or Tom Brady that leads their team to victory?

En route to their second Super Bowl appearance in franchise history, the Atlanta Falcons had a historic season posting the eighth most yards of all time. Falcon quarterback Matt Ryan finally lived up to his nickname "Matty Ice" with the best numbers of his career. He led the league in quarterback efficiency ratings with 117.1. He was also second in passing touchdowns and yards with 38 touchdowns and 4,944 yards.

Ryan has a plethora of weapons at his disposal with top-three receiver Julio Jones and a two-headed monster in the back field with Tevin Coleman and Pro-Bowl player Devontae Freeman. This team is built to score and score often. But it will be tested against the stingiest defense in the league allowing an NFL best 15.6 points per game.

During the Brady-Belichick era, the Patriots have been the model of consistency and excellence in professional sports. They've been 12-4 or better the last seven years and been to six Super Bowls. The Pats didn't skip a beat this year going 14-2 even after Brady missed the first four games due to the Deflategate ruling.

Brady, 39, looked as young as ever this year while completing passes to receivers most people have never heard of. He has made do with makeshift receiving corps the last couple of years and this season due to injuries. But he has all his weapons locked and loaded for Sunday including first team All-Pro tight end Rob Gronkowski, Pro-bowl tight end Martellus Bennett and Pro-bowl receiver Julian Edelman.

The X-factor in this game will be the Pats running back Legarrette Blount. He has been their workhorse most of the season, scoring a league high of 18 rushing touchdowns. If New England gets the running game going with Blount and control the clock, the Falcons defense won't be able to stop the passing game manned by arguably the greatest quarterback of all time in Tom Brady.

If the Atlanta defense holds stout and forces the Patriots to pass, it could spell trouble for the Brady bunch as the Falcons will take off on a relentless pass rush. Falcons linebacker Vic Beasley led the league in sacks this year and is a candidate for defensive player of the year. He, along with veteran defensive end Dwight Freeney, could make Brady uneasy in the pocket and force errors.

### PREDICTION

After weighing different ways this game can go, I'm going with the New England Patriots 31-28. The Falcons score late to tie, but Brady drives his team down to kick a field goal as time expires.

# Hammering it out



Photo by: Keith Salowich | Editor in Chief

Ferris senior distance runner Logan Hammer starts his morning at 6 a.m. by heading to the weight room before his 8 a.m. class, then has another workout with the team at 9 a.m. before some Ferris students are even out of bed.

## Ferris State's track and field athletes run through rain, shine, ice or snow

Beau Jensen

Torch Reporter

For a normal Ferris State student, running around campus at 6 a.m. is crazy talk, but for Logan Hammer and the rest of the Ferris State track and field runners, it's a norm.

Senior Logan Hammer runs everything from the 800 to 3,000 meter for an event with his main event being the mile. Preparing for events such as these is no simple task, and staying positive while practicing out in the cold can be tough. But Hammer says there are a few things that keep his spirits high.

"My team most importantly, they are with me through thick and thin and we keep each other standing through hard times," Hammer said. "Second, my coach. I don't ever want to let him down. He puts too much time into me for me to disappoint him. Third, I want to win so bad that no matter how bad it gets or how bad I hurt, I am going to do everything in my power to be ready when I get to the start line."

Hammer was on the 2016 GLIAC Men's Outdoor Track and Field All-Academic Team as one of the Dawgs' best performers in the classroom as well as on the track.

Hammer begins his Monday at 6 a.m. with a healthy breakfast before heading to the weight room. After

about an hour in the weight room, he heads to his 8 a.m. class, starting his next workout immediately after class at 9 a.m. Hammer meets his teammates at their run location for the day, running a series of miles before his 10:30 a.m. class.

All of that is done before many students at Ferris are crawling out of bed, making Hammer and his teammates schedules that much more impressive. When it comes to teammates and their effect on each other on a track and field team, some may think team chemistry doesn't matter but Hammer would argue that.

"It's a common misconception, we may be competing separately without passing balls or without communicating during a race, in fact, we may not even be in a race with anyone from our team, but it is very important to be unified as a team," Hammer said. "I don't think I need to explain how mentally and physically exhausting it is to run every single day of the year for an hour or more on top of lifting and many other things we incorporate."

With a little under a month of indoor meets left before the Dawgs open their outdoor season, Ferris track and field has already been training outside in the harsh weather while other teams have been training inside their heated facilities.

"It is crucial to have a team behind you, supporting you every step of the way," Hammer said. "We are just like any other sports team, we push each other and do everything we can to make each person the best they can be. I can tell you from experience, having your team cheering for you during any race can make a huge difference."

Hammer and the rest of the track and field program have their next meet Friday, Feb. 10, at the Grand Valley State Big Meet in Allendale.

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# OPINIONS

"If a Nazi is getting punched, please let it happen," - Travis Sacher  
See page 14 for story

Travis Sacher | Opinions Editor | sachert@ferris.edu

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Unsigned editorials appearing on this page are the opinion of The Torch and do not necessarily represent the opinion of the university's administration, faculty or staff. Signed columns represent the opinion of the writer. Inquiries regarding editorial content should be directed to the Editor in Chief at (231) 591-5978.

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

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## - TORCH STAFF -

**Editor in Chief**  
Keith Salowich  
(231) 591-5978

**Visual Content**  
Justin Campbell  
Andrea Cordes  
Samantha Dow  
Kaitlyn Kirchner

**Production Manager**  
Jordan Lodge

**Reporters**  
Kip Biby  
Alexa Bourne  
Cody Burkhard  
Harley Harrison  
Alicia Jaimen  
Beau Jensen  
Andrea Lenhart  
Brendan Samuels  
Adrianna Walker

**Production Assistant**  
Sarah Massey

**News Editor**  
Angela Graf

**Lifestyles Editor**  
Nick Vander Wulp

**Sports Editor**  
-

**Opinions Editor**  
Travis Sacher

**Multimedia Editor**  
Aubrey Kemme

**Web Supervisor**  
Angela Graf

**Office Manager**  
Andrea Lenhart

**Podcast Manager**  
Kip Biby

**Cartoonist**  
Mikala Piller

**Managing Copy Editor**  
Jasmine Nettles

**Copy Editors**  
Jen Corrie  
Jonny Parshall

**Distributor**  
Nick Vander Wulp

**Adviser**  
Steve Fox  
(231) 591-2529

## Chat with the chief

### Editor in Chief, Keith Salowich

There's been enough strife, divisiveness and controversy for a full year and we've barely escaped January. We need football now more than ever.

Thankfully, the Super Bowl is right around the corner pitting the New England Patriots against the Atlanta Falcons and it's estimated that more than 100 million people will tune in to catch the action.

Right when America needs a healthy dose of distraction from all that is going on in the country,

the NFL will provide us with a few hours of hotly contested competition.

Grown men twice the size of normal Americans will hurl themselves at one another helping to expunge the frustrations that come with these troubled times.

Of course, the NFL also has its issues with domestic violence and lasting brain damage, so we mustn't dwell too much on the harsher side of reality.

Instead, we can expect the

Super Bowl commercials to bring us some light through the darkness.

We'll ride the Budweiser Clydesdale horses through an uncertain future and allow puppymonkeybaby to remind us of a simpler life. One in which getting the puppymonkeybaby jingle stuck in our head was one of our biggest problems.

A sports spectacle on the magnitude of the Super Bowl can help to unite a population, if only for a

few hours.

During those fleeting hours, football fans won't be conservative and liberal, or black and white, or Christian and Muslim. They'll just be Patriots or Falcons.

It'll be a good, albeit temporary, respite from the world's issues even for non-football fans. They can always tune into the Animal Planet's Puppy Bowl.

After all, I have yet to meet a problem that can't be solved with puppies.

# Is it OK to punch a Nazi?

## Response to the Richard Spencer incident



Travis Sacher  
Opinions Editor

"Is it OK to punch a Nazi?"

My answer: yes.

It's a question that has taken the media by storm ever since white supremacist Richard Spencer got punched in the side of the face Friday, Jan. 20. A quick recap of the event goes like this:

Richard Spencer is the man who coined the term "alt-right" and is the president of the National Policy Institute, a white nationalist (supremacist) organization. He was in the middle of a filmed interview on a Washington, D.C. street corner during Donald Trump's presidential inauguration. A man ran up and punched Spencer on his right cheek, interrupting the interview. The man fled while Spencer stumbled away holding his cheek, but clearly fine.

The incident quickly hit the media and created an uproar. Debates began over the question, "Is it OK to punch a Nazi?" Many people saw no issue in punching a Nazi, while others supported Spencer, claiming violence was not warranted.

When did we, as Americans, decide to support Nazis? In WWII, we prided ourselves on killing fascist, genocidal Nazis. Why do we now support those with parallel ideals to German Nazis? This is what Richard Spencer advocates for the country—"a dispossessed white race" and call for "peaceful ethnic cleansing." If you aren't sure what that means, he calls for America to eradicate the country of people of color, Muslims, Jews and Homosexuals. Does this not sound like the Nazis visions of a "pure Aryan race"?

He has stated that gay men will not enjoy monogamy, therefore he does not support same-sex marriage. He called Trump's presidential victory "the victory of the will," a reference to the Nazi-era propaganda film, "Triumph of the Will." He supported the selection of Steve Bannon, an extreme alt-right individual who beat up his wife and is an openly anti-Semitic for White House strategist.

If this isn't enough information to call Richard Spencer a Nazi, I'm not sure what is.

Over the past week, media outlets were clut-



Photo from Richard Spencer's Twitter account

Alt-right advocate Richard Spencer was punched in the face twice while being interviewed on Friday, Jan. 20.

tered with people posting their opinion over the question "Is it OK to punch a Nazi?" Some people believe that punching a Nazi is fair. Some believe a punch is not enough, while others believe there is no place where unwarranted violence is acceptable.

What is so wrong about punching a Nazi? If you advocate hate and the eradication of non-whites from the country, you deserve far worse than a punch. Spencer tried to argue that he is

not a Nazi, but a far right supporter. Yet, everything he preaches aligns with Nazi ideals, which means he is a modern day Nazi and should be punched.

In a response to his "assault," Spencer stated white nationalists (supremacists) should provide protection for themselves if police cannot.

Now I have a request for the police: if a Nazi is getting punched, please let it happen.



Photo by: Aubrey Kemme | Multimedia Editor

The 11 a.m. lunch rush at student dining facilities leaves a few empty chairs, but not enough isolation for some diners.

# Let me dine alone

*We need more individual seating in student dining cafes*

It's 11 a.m. Tuesday morning and I'm at the Quad Cafe. I'm standing because there is no place to sit. There are about 30 empty seats and yet, no place to sit.

Next to me is a young woman half my height and wearing glasses. She holds a plate of food. There's a table nearby. A young man sits at it eating pizza and soup. The other three chairs at the table are empty. The young woman stands because there are no available seats—empty chairs, yes—but nowhere. To. Sit.

Two young men sit across from each other at the communal island that snakes its way across the cafeteria. They eat fast, barely chewing, staring away into space or at their food, trying desperately to avoid eye contact.

It can be assumed the Quad Cafe was designed with groups of friends in mind. You grab three of your buds, grab a four-top, chow down and laugh at each other's dumb jokes. The perfect student dining experience. This ideal makes for a flat reality.

In actuality, the busier hours are filled with students rushing to the UC and frantically looking for empty tables to nab before anyone else can. Those that fall behind are forced to wait for a table to clear up or worse, give up on waiting and sit with a complete stranger.

Touchy, feely sentimentalists will argue that this is a great way to make friends. And I have made friends this way. But when you've got one hour to stuff as much food in your gut as you can before your noon



Jonny Parshall  
Copy Editor

class starts, friendship is not on your mind.

And so chairs remain empty—leprous pariahs never to be touched.

What's so wrong with individual seating? Why can't I sit at a small, isolated table facing a wall or window? One argument would be space efficiency. One-person seating is not an efficient use of space. You would, in effect, be seating less people in the same amount of space.

Except look around the room with your human eyes. All those empty chairs? Not exactly efficient, either. Your argument is invalid.

There might be scientific studies that show eating too fast or under too much distress is bad for digestion and causes serious health problems, but I'm too upset and distressed to look into it. So we'll just have to accept it as a possibility at face value.

Next time you're eating at Quad, and a philosophy professor asks you if the seat by you is empty, think of me and my argument for individual seating. With enough angry voices shouting in unison, we might be able to create real, permanent change. Only by joining together can we truly dine alone.

# Winter woes

## 11 months until we meet again



Alicia James  
Torch Reporter

Dear January,

I think it's time I made a confession to you, a confession I've never told any of the other months: I kind of love you. You are my favorite month and I am so sad that we will not meet again until next year.

I'll miss your hot and cold personality, always keeping me on my toes. I'll miss the spats we got into when I awoke to a snow-covered car. I apologize for a few choice words that were exchanged... but more than anything else, I'm going to miss the honeymoon phase of the new year.

January, you were the hope of new beginnings, new resolutions and promise for a better year, but instead I awoke today to find you snuck out in the middle of the night. I didn't get to say goodbye.

Did you leave because I broke my resolutions after only two weeks? I didn't mean to, the cake just smelled so good and the gym was so far away.

You see, February doesn't know me like you do. Such a romantic she is with her ironically cold personality. I notice every year she can only put up with me for 28 days before she flees. Coward.

So as red and pink decorate the aisles in every store, I'll be thinking of you.

I should've appreciated you more, cherished the time we had together, but alas, time moves on. I can only count the days until we meet again.

Sincerely,

Overly-attached college student

## GOT AN OPINION?

HOW TO SUBMIT A LETTER TO THE EDITOR:

1. THINK OF A TOPIC THAT YOU FEEL STRONGLY ABOUT.
2. WRITE OUT YOUR THOUGHTS IN A COHERENT AND RESPECTFUL MANNER.
3. INCLUDE A HEADSHOT AND SOME INFORMATION ABOUT YOURSELF (LOCATION, AGE, ETC.).
4. EMAIL YOUR OPINION TO OUR OPINIONS EDITOR FOR A CHANCE TO HAVE YOUR WORK PUBLISHED IN OUR NEXT ISSUE!

Deadline for submissions every Saturday by 5 p.m.  
Travis Sacher | Opinions Editor | Email: sachert@ferris.edu

# MEET THE TORCH

Aubrey Kemme | Multimedia Editor



I am in my fourth year at FSU hoping to graduate with a bachelor's degree in graphic design and a minor in advertising and integrated marketing communications. I'm that random girl you all try to avoid when you see me taking photos around campus! I joined the Torch because I love photography and want to expand my knowledge in different areas.

Reach

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Cartoon by: Mikala Piller | Cartoonist

# WANTED

## EDITOR IN CHIEF

### 2017-18 SCHOOL YEAR:

We are seeking an organized student (enrolled in at least six credit hours) for the Editor-in-Chief position during the 2017-18 school year. Candidates must write well, possess excellent leadership skills and be prepared to work the entire school year. Candidates should also be familiar with digital publishing techniques. Qualified students can receive competitive wages for up to 20 hours per week. Ability to work and train in April and August of 2017 is necessary. Prior journalism experience or training desired.

### APPLICANTS NEED TO SUBMIT:

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

### SEND RESUME, ESSAY AND CLIPPINGS TO:

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

**DEADLINE: WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1, 2017**

The Torch offers a chance to work in a professional "real world" environment and adds excellent credentials to your resume.

## TUNE IN TO OUR WEEKLY PODCAST WITH KIP BIBY



Interested in being featured on the Torchcast?

Contact Kip - email: [kbiby44@gmail.com](mailto:kbiby44@gmail.com)

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