



Ferris State University
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HERE'S WHAT'S INSIDE

REMEMBERING NICOLE SWANSON

Read a tribute to Nicole Swanson, a Ferris student who passed away over winter break.

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UNLEASHED

Catch up on the recent success of the Ferris men's basketball team and their hope of a fourth straight GLIAC championship.

SPORTS | PAGE 10

Dough for Dawgs

Minimum wage increases to \$9.25



Photo by: Abbey Good | Multimedia Editor

Ferris social work junior Mackinzy Folkes dresses a caramel coffee at the University Center Starbucks on campus.

Megan Lewton
Torch Reporter

Working Bulldogs will see a few more dollars in their paycheck this year as the minimum wage makes another increase.

Starting Monday, Jan. 1, minimum wage was raised from \$8.90 to \$9.25 an hour. This is the final minimum wage raise in a series of four increases beginning in 2014, according to Ferris Manager of Student Employment John Randle.

"Every student that's making \$8.90 or \$9 or anything less than \$9.25 will automatically be moved up to \$9.25. Students that are currently above \$9.25 are not going to be automatically increased and if their supervisor feels that they should be increased and they have the funding in their budget, they would have to go in and manually request that those individuals be increased," Randle said.

In addition to the minimum wage raise, Randle said the awards for work study have been increased as well.

"We did increase the work study award amount to accommodate that, so students can work the same amount of hours. If you keep getting more per hour and you have a limited amount to earn,

you're not gaining anything. So we did increase the awards to allow students to work more hours," Randle said.

Increase in minimum wage can cause some workers to worry about hours being cut. However, Randle said Ferris is working to increase budgets to allow students to continue to work.

"Our budget people that determine the budget that go to all of the departments, they are very concerned that student hours don't get reduced. So they try to give more money to the departments to offset the minimum wage so they can still work the same hours," Randle said.

Although the 35 cent increase won't make Ferris student workers go from rags to riches, many are pleased with the minimum wage raise, such as Ferris social work sophomore Cassie Deising, who works at the Ferris Student Code of Conduct Office.

"I think it's a really good thing that it's going up. I think I will see a difference

because I'm only making eight-something right now and also my hours were kind of cut short, like a couple hours less a week than I'm doing now, so those extra couple dollars might come in handy," Deising said.

Others, such as Ferris information security and intelligence senior and FLITE library page Megan Kludy are supportive of the raise but don't feel that it needs to be increased more.

"It's always nice when wages go up but I stand with the consensus that minimum wage is for high school and college students. I don't think minimum wage is meant to be a livable income, just a source of extra cash or to pay small bills," Kludy said.

Randle said that although there are no more approved minimum wage increases at the state level, Ferris individually reviews wage increases and will raise minimum wage on campus if the state goes a long time without an increase in minimum wage.



John Randle



Megan Kludy

Too little, too late?

Behind the scenes of the Ferris alert system

Grant Siddall
Torch Reporter

The alert messages sent in December regarding an armed man on campus have left many students wondering how the Department of Public Safety (DPS) handles alerts.

At 5:50 p.m. Dec. 2, Ferris Department of Public Safety issued an alert stating that there was a report of a man with a gun around North Residence Hall and that there was a shelter in place. The next alert at 6:10 p.m. clarified that there had been a Snapchat photo at 2 p.m. of a man with a gun possibly on campus but that there was no specific threat. At 7:33 p.m., the final alert was sent to let students know that the shelter was lifted and that there was no immediate threat to campus.

Many students have had questions regarding why it took almost four hours between the time the original photo was posted and when the alert was sent to students. DPS Director Bruce Borkovich, who is in charge of the alert system, said that DPS acted as soon as they had knowledge of the photo.



Bruce Borkovich

"I can't write a paragraph, I'm limited to 150 characters. The information goes out as we have it. In this particular case, at approximately two o'clock a female and a male posed for a Snapchat and the male had a handgun in his hand.

Snapchats have a geography and the geography showed that it was taken in North Hall. Eventually, that picture got to an RA in North Hall," Borkovich said.

"The RA called us and we went over quickly to investigate it and saw that, yes, there was a guy on campus with a gun. That's what we had at the time. As more information came in, we found out that it had taken place hours ago. However, it sounds like as officers walked into the building, that guy was walking out in another area. These messages evolved as we got more information."

As for behind the scenes, DPS workers were making calls and locking down buildings once the threat was confirmed.

"While we're putting these alerts out, we have about six phones going at once and we're communicating with residence halls and other more vulnerable areas on campus where there are a lot of students. We had the ability to put the University Center on lockdown so we did that, and we thought 'what else is vulnerable?' and we had the ability to lockdown the Rec Center so we did that," Borkovich said.

"We immediately let all the residence

Alert | see page 3

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NEWS

"The legacy Nicole left seems to be that she could always make people laugh."
- Chris Barton - See below for story

Harley Harrison | News Editor | harrih12@ferris.edu

Remembering Nicole Swanson

Ferris student dies in car accident

Harley Harrison
News Editor

Just days before Christmas, tragedy struck the Ferris community after a student died in a car crash.

Ferris communications junior Nicole Swanson was driving north around the area of South Maple City Road at approximately 3 a.m. Dec. 23, according to an MLive article.

Her vehicle went off the right side of the road and crashed into a tree, causing the car to catch on fire.

Although a passerby was able to pull her out of the vehicle and support her until emergency responders arrived, Swanson was pronounced dead at the scene shortly after emergency medical services got there. Swanson was 22 years old.

Today, Nicole Swanson is remembered by her younger sister, Ferris nursing junior Dana Swanson, and her sister's boyfriend, Ferris accounting and finance junior Chris Barton. Dana Swanson and Barton described Nicole Swanson as being bright, outgoing, confident, kind and funny.

Nicole Swanson enjoyed playing the piano, watching

scary movies, drawing and writing, as she aspired to be a creative writer, according to Barton and Dana Swanson.

"I remember when Nicole showed me this poem [Coffee Shop] for the first time. We met in the UC and she was so excited to read it to me. She was always so proud of the poems she wrote and she worked so hard on them. Her strong suit was definitely being creative," Dana Swanson said.

Despite being described as polar opposites, the sisters were considered best friends.

"The legacy Nicole left seems to be that she could always make people laugh. She was such a jokester and loved scaring people," Barton said.

For more details about the accident, visit mlive.com.



Submitted photo

Ferris communications junior Nicole Swanson was an animal lover, according to her sister, Ferris nursing junior Dana Swanson.

COFFEE SHOP

A poem by Nicole Swanson *slowly stirring*

The bell rings as the glass door opens
She is welcomed with a friendly smile
The chalkboard is filled with colorful choices

She finally orders
Her eyes, glazed from the sun

The coffee is placed gently on the counter, waiting to be fed cream and sugar

She glances at the boy behind the counter
He looks and his eyes smile
Her heart jumps as she shyly peers down at her coffee,

She places herself on a wooden chair

Her coffee in front of her

Paintings inside of frames staring at her asking...
What do I mean?"

As she perches her lips upon the cup of coffee, she notices a bird resting on the fence

Then all of a sudden, she gets an inspiration...

She wants to write a poem

It starts off saying,
"The bell rings as the glass door opens..."

Animals find forever

Shelter saves animals as well as students

Cora Hall
Torch Reporter

The story of the Animal Rescue Coalition (ARC) of Me-costa County began with the biggest rescue mission of all.

Most people know it as a place where animals find their forever homes but what most people do not know is that ARC replaced an old shelter that had bad practices, according to ARC manager Cynthia Glazier.

"They were euthanizing dogs using the gas chamber—they were one of the only two shelters in the state that still did that—and they were selling dogs to a research facility. So our director, Cate Arroe, wanted that to change and she got a petition together to take before the County Commission," Glazier said.

Opening its doors in 2012, ARC took on all the pets from the previous shelter and found forever homes for all of them. Glazier explained that the shelter has since then received a lot of support from the community through donations.

"We are very blessed that we have some very generous donors in our community. It can be financial or if we get low on cat litter, we post on Facebook and within two days I've got 30 people coming in with cat litter, dog food and cat food, so we rely a lot on donations," Glazier said.

Ferris students who volunteer at ARC have found it to be a good way to relax amidst all the stress that comes along with school.

"I started because I was actually stressed with school

and since I'm away from home, I don't have my dog or my cat," Ferris public relations senior Brooke Bewak said. "So, I thought I would channel all that stress-energy into doing something good so it would be beneficial for the animals and beneficial for myself to have a time to breathe and relax."

Ferris business administration senior Gaige Tucker agreed that playing with the kittens in the shelter was a great way to de-stress for him and that some of the playing included rehabilitation of mistreated animals.

"Sometimes they'll get a new cat and it won't be as friendly. So we try to break them in, just to get them used to being around other animals because they will get animals that have been abused or mistreated and that's rough to see," Tucker said.

ARC has more than 60 student volunteers, who do much of the cleaning and chores around the shelter and they are invaluable according to Glazier.

"We have some of the best, most-dedicated student volunteers in the world. I don't think we could do everything we do without our student volunteers," Glazier said. "The only thing I dislike about student volunteers is that I get super attached to them and then they graduate and leave. ARC would not be what it is without our students."

Students who want to volunteer at ARC can pick up an application at the shelter or online at arcofmccostacounty.com.



Brooke Bewak



Gaige Tucker



Photo by: Cora Hall | Torch Reporter

ARC manager Cynthia Glazier cuddles a cat at the shelter.

- ON THE RECORD -

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

Intense times

Harley Harrison
News Editor

Oh, lovely larceny

Dec. 3, 4:15 p.m., officers investigated a report of larceny in Vandercook Hall but no action was taken.

Food fight!

Dec. 3, 8 p.m., officers responded to a report of assault and battery and obstruction of justice in the Rock Café. One subject was arrested and referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

Bad boys

Dec. 4, 7:42 p.m., officers arrested two subjects for violating the Controlled Substance Act and for a narcotics equipment violation in North Hall. Both subjects were also referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

Get outta here!

Dec. 6, 4:35 p.m., officers referred one suspect to the Office of Student Conduct for trespassing in Brophy Hall.

Fraud fails

Dec. 6, 10:49 p.m., officers investigated a report of fraud in the Rock Café. One warrant request was submitted to the prosecutor's office and one suspect was referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

Drug bust

Dec. 7, 12 a.m., officers investigated a narcotics equipment and controlled substance violation in the 500 block on Clark Street. One subject was arrested and referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

The one that got away

Dec. 7, 3 p.m., officers investigated a report of breaking and entering in North Hall. The investigation is still open.

For the love of Brophy

Dec. 7, 8:25 p.m., officers responded to a subject trespassing in Brophy Hall. The subject was arrested and referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

Druggie troubles

Dec. 8, 8:44 p.m., officers arrested one subject for a Controlled Substance Act violation on Northland Drive and Arthur Road.

Not cool, dude

Dec. 8, 10:14 p.m., officers arrested a subject at the Oakwood Apartments for drunk driving. The subject was also referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

Keep your hands to yourself

Dec. 10, 12:40 a.m., officers responded to a report of domestic violence in Robin Court. One subject was arrested and referred to the Office of Student Conduct and the case was sent to the Title IX Of-

fice.

Lovin' drugs

Dec. 11, 4:33 p.m., officers investigated a violation of the Controlled Substance Act in Vandercook Hall. One warrant request was submitted to the prosecutor's office and one subject was referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

Sweet escape

Dec. 11, 6:40 p.m., officers investigated a report of larceny in the Student Recreation Center. The investigation was closed after a lack of leads.

Rockin' Robin

Dec. 12, 4:28 p.m., officers have submitted one warrant request to the prosecutor's office for a controlled substance violation in Robin Court.

Smooth criminal

Dec. 14, 10:27 a.m., officers investigated a report of malicious destruction of property in Lot 61. The investigation was closed after a lack of leads.

Out of control

Dec. 14, 9:36 p.m., officers investigated a Sex Offender Registry violation on State Street and Cedar Street. One subject was arrested.

Intense times

Dec. 28, 4:43 a.m., officers responded to a noise complaint in Finch Court where they discovered a non-student having a breakdown due to a mental condition. The incident resulted in a minor assault between the two parties. The subject is now being evaluated by community mental health professionals, a warrant request was sent to the prosecutor's office and the suspect has been trespassed from the university.

Bad decisions

Dec. 28, 7:26 p.m., officers investigated a Controlled Substance Act violation on Perry Avenue and Clark Street. Two subjects were arrested and one subject was referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

Three months later...

Dec. 31, 11:21 p.m., officers closed an investigation that was originally reported on Sept. 29. Officers had received a report of an obstruction of justice on Elm Street. The investigation is now closed and one subject was arrested.

You can't run

Jan. 1, 6:15 p.m., officers investigated an obstruction of justice on the US 131 ramp. One subject was arrested.

WEEKLY WORLD NEWS

Catch up on news around the globe

Harley Harrison
News Editor

Kroonstad, South Africa

At least 18 are dead and more than 260 injured after a passenger train hit two vehicles. According to a spokesman, a truck driver attempted to rush across the track and miscalculated the speed of the train. The death toll is expected to rise.

Original story by Kimon de Greef, Jan. 4, 2018. *The New York Times*.

Reykjavik, Iceland

A new law called the Equal Pay Standard, which passed in June, has taken effect in order to minimize gender inequality. The law requires that all companies with at least 25 full-time employees analyze their salary structures every three years and then report it to the government to ensure men and women are paid the same amount for doing the same job.

Original story by Egill Bjarnason and Christine Hauser, Jan. 3, 2018. *The New York Times*.

Lima, Peru

The Peruvian government has banned buses from a stretch of road after a bus plunged off a cliff and onto a beach, killing 51 passengers. The stretch of road has been called the Devil's Curve and it curves 52 times in 14 miles and doesn't have safety rails in most areas.

Original story by Marcelo Rochabrún, Jan. 3, 2018. *The New York Times*.

Kabul, Afghanistan

At least 20 were killed and 30 wounded after a suicide bomber working for the Islamic State detonated a bomb in a market where shopkeepers were protesting. Most of the victims were members of the police force or security officials.

Original story by Fahim Abed, Jan. 4, 2018. *The New York Times*.

Alert

Continued from page 1

halls know, the residence halls then immediately have their staff roaming all over checking doors. Then we got police officers from other agencies and sent them to the sports arena. The information that we had was that the guy that had the gun was long gone and headed back to Chicago."

Borkovich also added that DPS was first informed of the photo at about 5 p.m. and that the reason for the delay is that they make sure to verify all incidents before sending out alerts so they can avoid false alarms.

Other questions many students had were what legal ramifications face the man with the gun and was he a student?

"The mere possession of a firearm on campus is a rule violation, not a law. Now even if someone has a concealed weapons license, if they're in a dormi-

tory they're breaking a state law," Borkovich said. "In this particular case, we discovered a pretty large amount of marijuana, enough to indicate that the person was selling it.

"We believe that the marijuana was also owned by the person with the gun so that person, had they been caught, would have had several felonies. We're still working on [the case]. Everything looks like this person is probably a resident of Chicago and we're still not sure who it is but it's unlikely this person will be prosecuted and the student who was with this person has still not been cooperative."

According to the DPS Crime Log, the crime was classified as a weapon's offense, an obstruction of justice, an unlawful use of an automobile, a narcotics equipment violation and a possession with intent to deliver. A warrant request was submitted, one suspect was arrested, one suspect is still unknown and five subjects were referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

NEWS BRIEFS

Harley Harrison
News Editor

Office of Multicultural Student Services (OMSS) spring semester open house

Students are invited to join OMSS for their Spring Open House Wednesday, Jan. 10, from 12 – 3 p.m. in FLITE 159. Students can enjoy light refreshments and learn how they can get involved. For more information, contact OMSS at OMSS@ferris.edu.

Campfire and hot cocoa in the Quad

Join the Ferris Center for Leadership, Activities and Career Services (CLACS) for hot chocolate by a campfire in the Quad. The event will be held Thursday, Jan. 11, from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. For more information, please call Teresa Fogel at 231-591-5936.

The 32nd annual MLK Freedom March

Come participate in OMSS' annual MLK Freedom March to honor and commemorate the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The march will take place Monday, Jan. 15, from 4 – 5 p.m. and it will start in the University Center Rankin Atrium. For more details or information about other OMSS events, please contact OMSS@ferris.edu.

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What comes next?

The FCC voted 3-2 to end net neutrality

Grant Siddall & Harley Harrison
Torch Reporter & News Editor

The impact of ending net neutrality on students is unknown but it has the potential to hurt education.

Net neutrality, which is also referred to as the open internet, was a policy that requires all internet providers to treat all internet content equally so that users can access all websites with the same ease.

According to an article by ABC News, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) voted in 2015 to consider consumer broadband service as a public utility, which fell under the Title II Order of the 1934 Communications Act. The FCC determined that the internet was a public utility similar to electricity and phone service companies.

But Dec. 14, 2017, the FCC voted again to reverse net neutrality policies, such as the one that considered the internet a public utility, according to a different article by ABC News. This rollback may contribute to the development of different speed lanes for websites, which could mean users will have to pay higher prices for faster speeds.

So what does this reversal mean for students?

According to an NPR interview of Richard Culatta, the CEO of the International Society for Technology in Education, the removal of net neutrality could have large impacts on students due to the amount of free materials

available to students and teachers online.

With the removal of net neutrality, companies will be enabled to slow speeds of free content in an attempt to steer students and educators towards paid content, which will have a negative impact on education, especially in poor areas, according to the interview with Culatta.



Phil Scirha

While the issues mentioned by Culatta are more focused on K-12 schools and less on college, the same issues with accessing content applies to college students. For example, access to Google Scholar is currently available for free, however, with net neutrality repealed, Internet providers could throttle speeds to the site in order to steer users towards paid sites or charge extra for the use of the site.

Some Ferris students are worried about the ways that a repeal could negatively impact their lives as students and outside of school.

"I think that net neutrality impacts students in a huge way. Today a vast majority of our information comes from the Internet, even publishers are beginning to offer E-Books and learning material directly from a web browser," Ferris computer information technology senior Ryan Fouts said. "If repealed, I feel that easily accessible in-

formation for students will become much more difficult. Internet prices may rise, Internet may get slower or be throttled, finding the right information may require subscriptions or special packages. These are things that no student wants to deal with in our already stressful lives."

Entertainment industries could be another way that people are impacted by a repeal. Many streaming services like Netflix or Hulu could see reduced speeds from certain Internet providers and things like online gaming could see a similar fate.

"Outside of academics this will affect how I get a lot of my information news wise and also how I get my entertainment," Ferris welding engineering senior Phil Scirha said. "I am definitely hoping they don't do anything to our Internet in terms of gaming, in terms of games like PUBG or League of Legends. I play all games of that nature. If they start messing with that it's going to get really bad, really quickly. They are going to get a lot of backlash from gamers."

The next step in the net neutrality battle is a vote by congress to repeal the FCC vote under the Congressional Review Act. US Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer said that the congressional vote does not need the support of the majority leader and that "we can bring it to the floor and force a vote. So there will be a vote to repeal the rule that the FCC passed."



Big Rapids Planet Fitness coming soon

Yes, there will be pizza too

Cora Hall
Torch Reporter

Big Rapids will be gaining another way for students to get fit, de-stress and get their pre-summer tan in the spring of 2018.

Many Ferris students are members already at their local Planet Fitness locations and will soon be able to work out 24/7 at school too. Memberships start at \$1 down and \$10 per month and many students think it will be worth the money.

"I'm going to get a black card and go, especially since I already use it at home," Ferris nursing sophomore Kenzie Gormley said.

Even with the option of going to the Ferris Student Recreation Center (SRC) for free, Gormley said she would prefer to work out at Planet Fitness.

"It is a hundred times better. The Rec Center here has no machines and they're always broken," Gormley said. "Planet Fitness is always well-kept and clean."

The new Planet Fitness, which will be located at 1250 Perry Avenue, will officially open its doors this upcoming spring and will be accepting memberships in February, according to a press release from December 7. Members who want full access to massage chairs, tanning beds, free guest passes and other amenities can buy a Black Card membership, which is \$21.99 per month.

Not all students are willing to pay for a

gym when they can access one for free though and Ferris pre-pharmacy sophomore Veronica Mills thinks that the number of students who get memberships will depend on the quality of the renovations at the SRC.

"I think it depends on how fast the renovations get done. I feel like a lot of students at home do go to Planet Fitness, so they probably will move over because it's super cheap and they like it better. But I think it all just depends on how nice the Rec turns out," Mills said.

Planet Fitness prides itself in providing a judgment-free zone for anyone to work out in.

"Our mission is to offer anyone and everyone a friendly, non-intimidating atmosphere to exercise at a very affordable price," CEO of Impact Fitness Chris Klebba said in a press release.

Among the amenities included in a Planet Fitness membership is unlimited small group fitness instruction by certified trainers and free pizza on the first Monday of every month, according to the press release.

According to Ferris welding engineering freshman Jake Warnaar, Planet Fitness is not seen as a fitness club for those who are serious about lifting.

"There's two different kinds of gyms. There's a gym for people who just want to get into better physical shape, lose a little fat and just get healthier and then there's a gym for people who want to get really strong. I would consider myself more on the power lifting side, rather than just getting fit," Warnaar said.

With the renovations at the SRC and the opening of Planet Fitness, there will be plenty of new options for students to work out and stay healthy this coming spring.



Promotional image

Planet Fitness facility will be coming to Big Rapids this spring.

Preferred names

New policy takes strides

Harley Harrison
News Editor

For many transgender or gender nonconforming students, their first legal name can become an issue, especially in relation to the University.

As of Dec. 13, 2017, Ferris implemented their Preferred First Name Policy (PFN) so that students can choose the first name that appears on class lists, wait lists, final and midterm grades, registration status, student ID and diplomas.

“Our goal with this policy is to ensure all students, staff and faculty are recognized, respected and connected within the Ferris community. While a preferred first name is just one piece of that, it’s a visible and important part of a person’s experience at Ferris,” Associate Dean of Enrollment Services Elise Gramza said. “Our hope is that the more people are connected and accepted at Ferris, the more likely they will be successful here, whether that’s in the classroom or within their career.”

While the PFN policy allows for a lot of changes for students, it does have its boundaries. The name change is restricted from legal documents such as financial aid records, health records, employee health insurance, IRS forms and social security forms. Legal names will also appear on the back of all University IDs, according to the PFN policy.

“I believe one of the most important aspects of the policy is that it is for all Ferris community members, not just students or just faculty and staff. It is truly an inclusive policy for everyone at Ferris,” Gramza said. “Another item for consideration is that there are some instances, like financial aid and employment purposes, that still require the use of a legal name. The use of a preferred first name will be a balance of business processes that require a legal name and those that can allow a preferred first name.”

According to Gramza, the biggest struggle in implementing the policy was the technical abilities of the student information systems. While a group had been working on the implementation of the policy for two years, after the technical abilities were changed, the development and

approval of the policy only took a few months.

“This policy and the technical advances to ensure its implementation was a collaborative process. We had students express the need for a preferred first name, staff that spent hours of time researching the policy language and technical components and stakeholders across the university that came together to consider the implications of its implementation to ensure a smooth and possible transition,” Gramza said.

Ferris biology and psychology junior Duvonna Haynes said she was surprised by the new Ferris policy, especially because of how small Big Rapids is.

“It’s a good thing. I think that it’s good that they’re starting to accept that a person should have the right to be themselves, basically,” Haynes said. “So, no one else can tell



Duvonna Haynes

you who you are or who you want to be, and if they really believe that they are the wrong gender or they believe that their biology’s wrong and they want to be referred to as this and called that.

“I feel like they have the right to do that because they didn’t have a choice when they came into this world, you don’t have a choice. And like now, we’re given back that choice in a way. So, I feel like that’s very open minded thinking and I’m surprised that Ferris has done that.”

To find more information about the policy, it can be accessed off of the Ferris Registrar’s home page. Ferris community members can find the policy, Frequently Asked Questions and a request form to change their preferred names.

“We have created a website linked from the Registrar’s Office page. This page includes the policy, frequently asked questions and a request form and process for students who wish to designate a preferred first name,” Gramza said.

Ferris staff and faculty can contact the Human Resources Department for further information and steps of action, according Gramza.

Stressful scheduling

Behind the scenes at Ferris administration

Megan Lewton
Torch Reporter

Many students put a lot of work into planning their class schedule for each semester. However, the work put in by administration to plan what courses will be offered each semester often goes unnoticed.

The process of scheduling requires multiple members of administration and faculty and has several factors that need close attention in order to avoid conflicts.

According to Ferris Associate Provost of Academic Operations Leonard Johnson, each semester’s class schedule is determined by program directors and department chairs. These people are ultimately in charge of scheduling but they often consider the needs of faculty members.

Although the process can be time-consuming, it is made easier by using a scheduling matrix that sets time increments that most classes fall into, according to Ferris Registrar Elise Gramza.

“For fall and spring semesters, the matrix requires courses on Monday, Wednesday and

Friday to meet in 50 minute increments and Tuesday and Thursday classes to meet in 75-minute increments. Adhering to these standards helps us to maximize our use of classrooms while ensuring that students have fewer schedule conflicts, allowing them time to move to and from back-to-back classes,” Gramza said.

The process becomes increasingly complicated as many elements need to be considered. According to Johnson, some of the many factors include availability of professors that may have professional responsibilities that conflict with a class time, assuring the space in the classroom is appropriate for the class size and avoiding conflicts with other required classes within a program as to not cause overlap. Additional factors include sudden personal conflicts, such as family or health issues, that would prevent an instructor from teaching a class.

Although these factors are closely considered while determining class times, faculty members sometimes disapprove of their given schedule.

“Sometimes faculty are not

happy with their schedule. However, our department leadership tries to find a way to honor the faculty’s wishes while meeting student need. Sometimes the faculty’s wishes are met and sometimes not, but we always try to have a win-win situation,” Ferris Associate Dean of Operations in the College of Arts and Sciences Trinity Williams said.

In addition, there are sometimes conflicts with students who need to take multiple classes that overlap in a particular semester.

“When a conflict is discovered, every effort is made to make a change to accommodate students who may need to take two classes on the schedule that may conflict/overlap. Accommodations have included rescheduling one of the classes to avoid the conflict or working with individual students independently to allow them to complete required course requirements while not penalizing them for missing class time,” Johnson said.

The scheduling process is successful in scheduling more than 2,700 classes a semester, according to Gramza.

WANTED

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Ferris State Torch

2018-19 SCHOOL YEAR:

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

APPLICANTS NEED TO SUBMIT:

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

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LIFESTYLES

“I learned how important leaning on others and being open minded is.”
- Jake Trethaway - See below for story

Alicia Jaimes | Lifestyles Editor | jaimesa@ferris.edu

Moving forward

A new year with new possibilities and lessons learned

Kat Merby
Torch Reporter

With 2017 wrapped up and 2018 in its first month, students reflect on all that 2017 taught them as they hope to make the new year a memorable one.

“I hope to stay sober, find a good paying job so I can move out of the house and hopefully find a nice lady friend,” Ferris general studies freshman Mike Harrington said.

Harrington believes that one of the best things that he learned from last year were the benefits of being sober. Improving his mental and physical health, Harrington left 2017 feeling happier in general. However, looking back on the past two years, he wishes he could have reminded himself to slow down, in regard to his alcohol consumption and enjoying the moment.

Another Ferris student doesn't loathe 2017 quite as much as Harrington.

“I could leave 2017 where it is. However, I learned lots of lessons,” Ferris psychology freshman Autumn Smith said.

Since this was her first semester in college, Smith got to experience university life and living on campus. She is excited to attend Ferris Fest in the spring and looks forward to seeing her family over spring break.

Though excitement is in the future, Smith shared a lesson learned from 2017.

“I learned that no matter how much you might want something, if it isn't for you, then you simply can't have it. I learned that from situations that I thought were for me didn't work out but

someone else in the same situation was successful,” Smith said.

Finding your place in the world is a struggle. Luckily, Smith has taken a large leap in getting closer to that goal. For some, wanting to be involved in someone else's journey causes them grief and stress but in that case, it is still important to keep an eye on the bright side of the situation.



Mike Harrington

Ferris music industry management senior Jake Trethaway faced a lot of hardships last year. However, it was also a year of growth.

“I'm in love with one of my best friends. She's going through personal stuff of her own, so trying to be a supportive friend while not acting on my feelings has been incredibly stressful. Overall, I'd say I live a fortunate life, because I'm healthy and have friends and family that love me,” Trethaway said.

One of Trethaway's goals this year is to focus on himself.

“I've been dealing with my depression for years and the combination of my medications balancing and my own personal growth has helped me enormously. Yoga and meditation are key. Taking a hard look at what your unhealthy habits are is difficult, and previously my failures got to me and discouraged me from trying to improve my life. Luckily, my best friend moved in with me and helped remind me every day that life is worth living,” Trethaway said.

He has also struggled with having the motivation to finish school because he has multiple job opportunities lined up. However, Trethaway knows that it is important to take advantage of any learning opportunity that is available while at



Photo by: Marcus Gurnee | Torch Photographer

Ferris construction management senior Zack Wilk said goodbye to 2017 and embraces the new year.

Ferris. He also has some wisdom to share that he acquired in 2017.

“I learned how important leaning on others and being open minded is. Even in the crazy messed up world we live in, that

no challenge in life is too big and that no mental illness will define my outlook on life,” Trethaway said.

Resolution-izing

Bulldog goals for 2018

Kat Merby
Torch Reporter



Ian Evo
Sophomore
Music Industry
Management

“I need to be nicer to people and do better in my classes.”



Michael Becerra
Sophomore
Plastics Engineering

“Drink less and get more sleep.”



Kate McGuire
Sophomore
Criminal Justice

“I need to be healthier and not be so consumed by technology.”



Chloe Millard
Sophomore
Nursing

“I want to get fit and pass all my classes.”

New romantics

They love me, they love me not...

Briana Hammtreee
Torch Reporter

College tends to be the time many venture into new relationships, hookups or come in with a committed relationship.

While many dating apps such as Tinder and Bumble are popular on campus, forming a relationship by being friends or through mutual friends is not a forgotten method either.

Ferris pre-pharmacy senior Jordin Woodard has used both methods but has found that she prefers dating someone she knows through mutual friends.

"I think dating online is difficult for students who are serious about a relationship. I've found a lot of the men on dating apps like Tinder or Bumble don't take it very seriously. Most are either looking for a hookup or use it to talk to women when they are bored," Woodard said. "It also is largely focused on

appearance, instead of more important factors, making it hard to attract the right kind of person. I think the most successful way to date for someone seriously looking is through friends or maybe becoming acquainted with someone in person and asking them on a date in person, too."

Ferris public relations senior Savannah McCalpin finds that dating apps can be beneficial for those who have difficulty opening up in person.

"I believe social media apps and texting are the best way to reach out to people. Hanging out in person is my preferred way of getting to know people but sometimes people are a lot more willing to open up when you're talking through a piece of technology," McCalpin said.

Long-distance relationships are also prevalent to Ferris students, with McCalpin dating her boyfriend of over a year now as he attends

Michigan State University.

"Having a relationship in college can be both very difficult and very rewarding. It can occasionally be distracting between balancing an academic schedule, work load and student organization involvement, on top of a social life. Having good communication and an understanding of schedules between significant others is key when involved in any relationship, let alone a long-distance one," McCalpin said.

Ferris third year social work major Kennedy Kiersey came to school in a relationship and found her own way to make it work.

"I think dating on campus is a lot different from what I've seen. Either people come to Ferris, like me, in a relationship, or I think Tinder is big influence on the college dating world in general. People sometimes just meet or get close as friends too. It just depends," Kiersey said.



Photo by: Kaitlyn Kirchner | Torch Photographer

Tinder and Bumble are two apps students use to date on campus.



Photo by: Marcus Gurnee | Torch Photographer

Many students use gaming as a way to unwind after classes.

The digital life

Who would you want on your team?

Kat Merby
Torch Reporter

While gender-related debates rage on in the political world, many women face discrimination in the digital one.

"A misconception that females have to deal with is that many male gamers do not believe that both genders should not be on an equal playing field," Ferris television and digital media production senior John Barber IV said.

From his experience, this idea makes no sense. Barber has played on numerous gaming platforms and he claims that female gamers are a dominant force in tournaments and teams. Barber has found that female gamers excel at role playing, hand-eye coordination, reaction time and sports games as well.

Barber's dad encouraged him and his twin brother to start playing video games at an early age. He still plays video games today to relax throughout the day. It's also a conversation starter and a way to connect with others. One of his favorite games to play is "Uncharted 4."

"I played a lot of 'Call of Duty' with my cousins. I swear we could play that game forever," Ferris manufacturing engineering sophomore Riley Scott said.

Scott loves to try out new games when they come out and play whatever his friends play. One of Scott's favorite games is "Wolfenstein 2."

"One of the misconceptions about female gamers on the streaming site called Twitch is that many of the female gamers are on there to promote themselves as quote on quote 'cam girls' but I personally don't see a difference when I play against female or male gamers," Scott said.

The way he sees it, both female and male gamers play video games for the same purpose—to have fun. Scott also believes that female gamers have clearer thinking and better response time.

"I started playing because of my friends and a lot of the guys I used to hang out with played a lot. They all sort of got me addicted and I ended up buying my own games and I've been hooked on them ever since," Ferris public health senior Caitlyn Chaplinsky said.

She started playing video games during her freshman year of high school. Her favorite is "Dark Souls." As far as misconceptions that she has heard, she knows that male gamers don't have very high expectations for female gamers and they don't believe that females are as serious about gaming as they are. Chaplinsky knows of some male gamers that don't want girls on their team when it comes to tournaments.

"Gamer girls are always expected to be super nerdy but in reality, we can be pretty normal and we get just as hyped about playing as guys do and just as excited when we win," Chaplinsky said.

Many female gamers play the same games that male gamers enjoy.

"I started out playing 'Call of Duty' with my friend. We practiced for a while, then started playing on story mode," Ferris business administration freshman Aisha Betts said.

She started playing video games in eighth grade. One of her favorites at the moment is "The Last of Us." The misconception that she has heard about female gamers that bothers her the most is that female gamers don't take playing as seriously as male gamers do.

"One of the things that really bothers me is when my guy friends say something such as 'you wouldn't understand' after talking about video games but in reality I say 'well, I actually do,'" Betts said.



Riley Scott

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New year, new students

Fresh faces begin their second semester with confidence

Briana Hammontree
Torch Reporter

The first semester of freshman year can make or break a student's college experience: will they or won't they return?

While some students find the change to be a bit too much too soon, others find joy in their new experiences.

Ferris allied health freshman Loretta Gutierrez tried to keep an open mind when it came to her first experience at college, knowing since her freshman year of high school of her desire to go into nursing.

"When coming to Ferris, I didn't really have any expectations because I had picked my college mainly off the fact that one of my best friends was going here, so I wouldn't be alone in this experience," Gutierrez said. "I think it helped that I didn't have expectations because it made me

willing to be more comfortable and less worried about every aspect of the college. It also helped because I previously knew that Ferris had a pretty good program for nursing."

Full of new experiences, the beginning of freshman year is the time students build friendships, discover their interests and determine their own academic success.

"The beginning of the year involved a lot of adaptation to the social surrounding," Ferris computer networks and systems freshman Jeff Rase said.

"However, about halfway in, my focus shifted almost entirely towards academics. Overall, I'd say the first semester was about adapting to campus life."

Following in his father's footsteps to attend Ferris, Rase found his college experience to be different from that of his experience in high school, finding college to be more demanding and rigorous.

"It's comforting to know that all the classes that I am personally paying for are actually going to benefit me in the 'real world' someday," Rase said.

Due to college being a demanding experience for many students, new challenges and struggles push students to find ways to learn to adjust to their new lifestyles.

Ferris general studies freshman Jake Falkner previously found his school to have somewhat prepared him for his col-

lege experience by incorporating college methods in their classes but Falkner still found difficulty in his time management his first few weeks here.

"I feel I struggled with managing time. Because the first week, when I had my six hour gaps, I didn't know what to do in those times. Now, I use that time to study and stuff. Another thing was studying habits, because I procrastinated sometimes to the last minute," Falkner said.

With the first semester wrapped up, freshmen such as Rase, Falkner and Gutierrez are preparing themselves for the second semester, enjoying the reunion they will make with their new friends.

"I did enjoy my first semester because of the friends I have made, they all helped to make it a very memorable place for me," Gutierrez said.



Jeff Rase



Jake Falkner

Once upon a time

What to read when you aren't reading textbooks

Briana Hammontree
Torch Reporter

"The Defining Decade: Why Your Twenties Matter and How to Make the Most of Them Now" by Meg Jay

"Clinical psychologist Dr. Jay claims that the twenties are the defining years of adulthood. She helps to put a lot into perspective by causing you to not see your twenties as only a transitioning period. She also provides career tips that can be beneficial to us all, seeing how we are going to school at Ferris State to pursue a certain occupation in the future," Ferris pre-pharmacy sophomore Jayla Smith said.

"The Tipping Point: How Little Things Can Make a Difference" by Malcolm Gladwell

"This book is describing how little everyday things effect the world around us and can eventually become a big epidemic," Ferris hospitality management sophomore Oliver Wissman said.

"Insight: Why We're Not as Self-Aware as We Think and How Seeing Ourselves Clearly Helps Us Succeed at Work and in Life" by Tasha Eurich

"Asking questions about yourself is important for yourself and for others to understand you better. Without asking yourself these questions, it's impossible for one to know what makes us better and stronger in everyday life. Even still, most of us are poor judges of ourselves, so to other people we get different insights on how people perceive us in the world," Wissman said.

"Ready Player One" by Ernest Cline



Jayla Smith

"It takes place in the future where everyone pretty much spends their time in a virtual reality video game called the Oasis. The Oasis was created by a man called James Halliday. In his will, Halliday says that he has hidden an Easter egg in the Oasis and that the first person to find the egg will inherit his fortune. This causes a group of individuals called gunters to form, people whose sole purpose is to find Halliday's Easter egg. The book follows one such gunter named Wade Wyatts, who goes on a life changing journey to find Halliday's Easter egg," Ferris digital art and game design junior Daniel Cortez said.



Zach Vandenberg

"The Kite Runner" by Khaled Hosseini



Daniel Cortez

"My favorite book is the 'Kite Runner.' The movie is not that good, because of what happens when you transfer through mediums but that book is amazing. It deals with a lot of stuff like personal struggle and it's a good

book. It's not like historical fiction, it's just a guy who wrote this really great story. You're like 'wow, I can really see someone going through all this' and then they are probably like, 'well this probably isn't real but he put a lot of him into it.' That's what was so interesting about it," Ferris graphic design sophomore Brendan Teays said.

"Into Thin Air" by Jon Krakauer



Oliver Wissman

"That one was interesting because it shows how crazy some people get when they are just like, 'oh yeah, let's climb Mount Everest.' I don't want to go through that.

But that one was just really interesting because it followed Jon Krakauer who was like, 'hey I've always wanted to climb Mount Everest.' He was a hiker—he could climb a mountain. He said it was the worst thing he has ever done. It was also one of the deadliest years up on the mountain," Teays said.

"The Inheritance Cycle" by Christopher Paolini



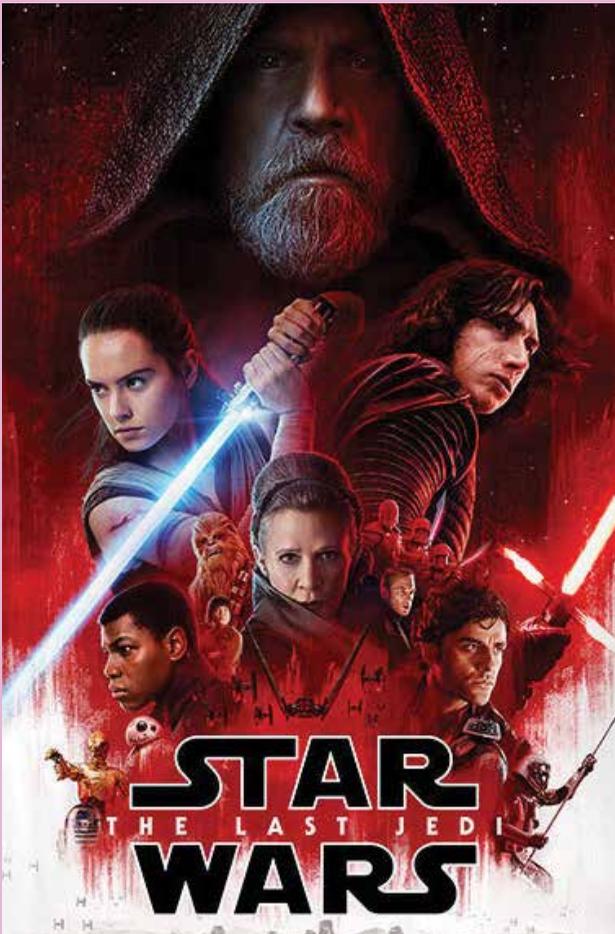
Brenden Teays

"It's four books but most people know it by its first book, 'Eragon.' It

takes place in a fantasy world, a way long time ago. It's an adventure in a fantasy world where one main character struggles throughout it. It's fantasy, so there is magic of course. There is also dragons," Ferris digital arts and game design sophomore Zach Vandenberg said.

Media Minute

"Star Wars: The Last Jedi"



Promotional image

The newest installment to the "Star Wars" film franchise dropped in theaters recently and "Star Wars: The Last Jedi" does not disappoint in all its glory. If you're a lover of sci-fi like I am, you're in for a roller coaster ride.

"The Last Jedi" is currently the 11th highest-grossing domestic movie of all time and has the media buzz to prove it.

"The Last Jedi" follows the heroes from "Star Wars: The Force Awakens" as they join legends from the original trilogy in an urgent adventure that unveils mysteries and addresses character's past motivations.

I think that one of the best features of the film is its attitude as a bold and unapologetic continuation of the franchise. The film pays homage to its predecessors without feeling like a carbon copy of the original movies.

"The Last Jedi" defies expectation and is ambitious in its departure from what fans expect. The plot twists within the film had me sitting on the edge of my chair, and as someone who has loved "Star Wars" for many years, I felt my heart race in sync with the opening credit's score.

The main protagonists embody the hope of the Resistance and as audience members, we see them grow into their roles amidst conflict and fear. Rey, Poe and Finn definitely stand out as people we can relate to.

We also see iconic characters like Luke and Leia on-screen again. I shed a tear when the late Carrie Fisher



Marley Tucker
Opinions Editor

came on-screen. To know that the artists we lose are immortalized in the craft they loved is a comforting feeling and "The Last Jedi" reminds everyone why Fisher will always be royalty to us.

For decades, "Star Wars" movies have supported the simple doctrine that there is good and there is evil. Temptation, morality and human emotion play a significant role in "The Last Jedi." We see all of the characters coexisting along a spectrum and I think this film is a breath of fresh air. This film is more realistic in that respect and it handles the narrative we've come to love with an adult touch.

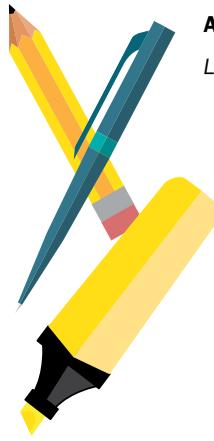
Characters change over time, sometimes in painful ways, and I firmly believe that the attitude of the film has been a long time coming. Like the famous binary sunset made famous in "Star Wars Episode IV," hope exists even in the saga's darkest moments.

Whether you're a fan of the new trilogy or not, "Star Wars: The Last Jedi" is an unforgettable installment to the beloved space opera.

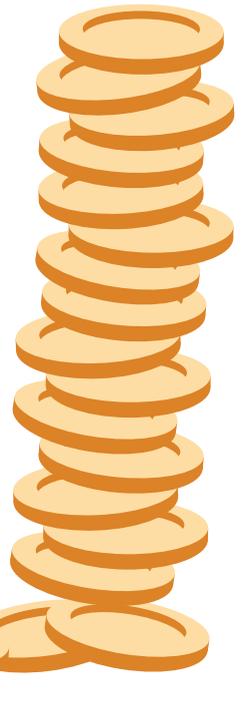
If you've never watched a single "Star Wars" film, I highly recommend finding a friend and fixing that right away. Binge watch all of the films and then get to a theater and experience "The Last Jedi" while you can.

New semester necessities

Alicia Jaimes
Lifestyles Editor



- Purchase textbooks (and ask professors if textbooks are necessary)
- Buy a planner
- Read your syllabus
- Buy rolls of quarters to feed meters
- Get pens, pencils, highlighters, calculators



Your social calendar

Some good reasons to fill your planner

<p>Alicia Jaimes Lifestyles Editor</p> <p>Bonfire and hot cocoa in the Quad Date: Thursday, Jan. 11 Time: 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. Location: Campus Quad</p> <p>Plan Your Planner Date: Tuesday, Jan. 16 Time: 2 – 4 p.m. Location: CLACS Lobby, University Center</p> <p>Pancakes in the IRC Date: Thursday, Jan. 18</p>	<p>Time: 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Location: IRC Connector</p> <p>Spring RSO fair Date: Jan. 22 Time: 4 – 7 p.m. Location: University Center 202</p> <p>Auditions for FSU Theatre spring show Date: Jan. 22 – 23 Time: 6:30 – 9:00 p.m. Location: Williams Auditorium</p> <p>The Social Impact Project- keynote speaker</p>	<p>Date: Jan. 24 Time: 5 – 7 p.m. Location: MCO 210</p> <p>Indie Incubator: From Poem to 3D Print Reception Date: Jan. 26 Time: 5 – 7 p.m. Location: Fine Art Gallery, UCB 205</p> <p>Go Big or Go Home: 10 Habits of Highly Effective Students Date: Jan. 30 Time: 11 – 11:50 a.m. Location: Science 102</p>
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SPORTS

“The GLIAC is such a tough conference, anyone can beat anyone on any given night.”
- Lexi Bush - See page 12 for story

Brendan Samuels | Sports Editor | samuelb1@ferris.edu

Unleashed

Bulldogs building résumé shinier than the hardwood they play on

Jacob Carlson
Torch Reporter

In an era where Ferris athletics is achieving success on all levels of the spectrum, men's basketball has continued to lead the charge.

The Bulldogs are now 16-1 after their win against Davenport Saturday, Jan. 6, and have won four straight games after their first loss of the season on the road against a tough Lake Superior State team, who sat atop the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (GLIAC) standings as of Dec. 16.

Though the Bulldogs have grown accustomed to this kind of success, it is safe to say that their 12-0 start to the season, the best in school history, will live on forever in the minds of current players and coaches.

“It was pretty great, we had high expectations for ourselves at the beginning of the year and so far, we are doing a good job living up to them,” senior Noah King said.

What's more impressive than their record is the underlying numbers behind it. Out of 16 of their wins, 12 of them have been by more than double digits, five of them by more than 20 and two games of more than 30, including a 100-51 victory over Ohio Valley before Thanksgiving.

The team is rolling and with just over 10 games left in the regular season, it doesn't appear that the Bulldogs have any thoughts of slowing down. Head Coach Andy Bronkema and members of the team know that it's not time to let go of the belief that they are ready to win a national championship.

“There's certain things that you have to do to have a chance and all you're going to get is a chance,” Bronkema said. “There are several teams that can win our league. There's several teams that can win our region and there are several teams that can win a national championship. Do I think we're one of them? Yeah but does the neighboring team think they're one of them? Yeah. We got to just keep believing that this is the year. Our team has that belief and it should.”

The team has gotten solid numbers from many players including King, who sits third in team scoring behind senior Drew Cushingberry and junior Zach Hankins, with 11.4 points. King is part of a starting five that has seen starts in every single game from each of the five members.

The team's ability to rotate players in and out throughout games has been one of its significant attributes during the spectacular start to the season and any thoughts on chemistry issues can be thrown out the door. Now it's just a matter of continuing to move forward as a group.

“There's no doubt that we have the talent but we have to make sure we stay locked in everyday and continue to get better as a group each and every day,” King said.

The best part about being three-time defending GLIAC tournament champions may just be the competition that it brings from opponents eagerly trying to achieve the success that the Bulldogs are known for. In a league as strong as the GLIAC, the games tend to get more exciting as the impact of the games grow larger and larger.

“It's important and it gets you ready but it's just more fun. There are a lot of great teams in this league. Good coaches and good players, so it's fun. That's what competitive athletics are about. It shouldn't be any other way,” Bronkema said.

The Bulldogs will have plenty of healthy competition coming their way in the final month and a half of the regular season as the team hosts a strong Northern Michigan team that sits right ahead of Ferris in the GLIAC standings while also getting a rematch with Lake Superior on home court in the month of January.

One thing is for sure, this team is for real—ask Tom Izzo. The Bulldogs are hungry and that NCAA tournament leash that's caught up with them the last few years is very close to coming loose.



Andy Bronkema



Noah King



Photo by: Keith Salowich | Web Supervisor

Ferris senior Drew Cushingberry pulls up for a jump-shot. Men's basketball has been on fire, posting a 16-1 overall record thus far.

Sports Shorts

Brendan Samuels
Sports Editor

Passing a milestone

The Ferris men's basketball team has been on fire this season, posting a 16-1 record up to this point. While the players deserve a ton of credit for their play, so does head coach Andy Bronkema.

The Bulldogs dispatched Wayne State 86-80 on Thursday, Jan. 4, and handed Bronkema his 100th career win as head coach at Ferris.

Bronkema has been the head coach of the Bulldogs since the 2013-14 season and has led the team to back-to-back-to-back GLIAC championships.

Lampman staying put

Former Ferris football receiver Jake Lampman was signed to a Futures/Reserves contract by the National Football League's (NFL) Tampa Bay Buccaneers. The contract ensures Lampman will remain on the team during the offseason.

Lampman has shown an ability to produce on the professional level as he was promoted to a starter for the New Orleans Saint's special teams unit last season.

With some hard work in the offseason, Bulldog fans can expect to see Lampman streaking down the field in the 2018-19 NFL season.

All-stars

Two defensive stars from the Ferris football team have been named to the D2Football.com All-American team.

Junior defensive lineman Zach Sieler and senior defensive back Tavierre Thomas were both selected with Sieler garnering first team honors and Thomas hauling in second team recognition.

Sieler and Thomas were arguably the two most consistent players for the Ferris football team this past season as Sieler lead the team with 21 tackles for loss and Thomas was always around the ball with 18 pass break-ups and four interceptions.

While Thomas will be graduating soon, Sieler still has a year remaining but has a choice to make as he enters his first year of NFL draft eligibility.

Top Dawg

Ferris men's basketball team



Photo by: Kaitlyn Kirchner | Torch Photographer

Brendan Samuels
Sports Editor

It's been nearly a month since the last Top Dawg honors were dealt, so this time around the award is going to a team in its entirety.

The spectacular play of the Ferris men's basketball team has been no secret this year and their momentum kept rolling over winter break.

The month of December has seen the Bulldogs continue to build on their solid season, posting a 5-1 record. The Dawgs' ability to score consistently has been aiding in putting tallies in the win column. As a team, Ferris was averaging nearly 83 points per game in December.

Senior point guard Drew Cushingberry has been a huge part of that scoring ability, averaging around 13 points per game over the team's last eight

games. Cushingberry has also done a nice job setting up teammates as he has averaged five assists in that period as well.

While Cushingberry has done well, junior center Zach Hankins has been putting up solid numbers, averaging nearly 14 points per game as well as nearly 10 rebounds and four blocks.

Ferris has also enjoyed solid play off the bench as players such as senior Tyquone Greer and junior Deshaun Thrower have posted solid numbers and helped the Bulldogs to a 16-1 record so far this season.

The Dawgs are coming off a nice 89-75 win over Davenport on Saturday, Jan. 6, and look to carry their dominant play into 2018.

Ferris men's basketball will be back in action at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 11, when they take on the Michigan Tech Huskies at Wink Arena.

Stuntin' on em

Ferris cheer team provides home away from home

Jacob Carlson
Torch Reporter

The Ferris cheer team has not only provided fans and players energy, it has also provided a family for many of its members.

The Ferris cheer team has become a staple at football and basketball games throughout the athletic year and members of the team are certainly enjoying the tight-knit community that the growing team has built.

"We're a very loving bunch of guys and girls. We've all really come together and we can talk to each other about anything. We're not just a team, we're more than that," freshman Lauren Zielinski said.

It appears as if that tight-knit atmosphere is helping the cheer team grow into a special group. The team is boasting tremendous numbers and is currently sporting 30 plus names to a growing list of members who are striving to provide fans with a fun atmosphere at sporting events.

That number makes the team larger than any in recent memory and it appears as if the size of the team isn't going to stop growing at any point soon.

"I believe that this is the biggest Ferris cheer has been, for as long as I know of," Coach Caitlyn Peca said. "It is growing very fast, as I have already had three high school cheerleaders reach out to me to do a visit and an interview for tryouts in the spring."

There isn't too much talk of college cheer but Peca's growing team has provided the opportunity for members



Photo by: Keith Salowich | Web Supervisor

Members of the Ferris State cheer team pump up the crowd on the sidelines at a home football game.

like Zielinski to continue growing in their cheer while performing at a high level.

"When I got to college I was not expecting to be a part of a team or any athletics here but my high school coach knows one of our coaches and they were looking for some more girls and one of my head coaches said I would be a great candidate," Zielinski said.



Lauren Zielinski

Peca has certainly played a huge role in giving members of the team that warm and welcoming environment to be a part of. Many times, fans are blown away by what the team can accomplish on the sidelines and it doesn't happen without a lot of hard work and effort from everyone involved.

The team practices three days a week for two hours at a time while also attending mandatory lift sessions one day a week and many more in their free

time. Peca also provides private lessons while opening her door to any member in need of growing in their abilities. The work has paid off as Ferris is introducing a women's stunt team to bring their talent to a competitive level.

"I am so excited for this journey. Being able to put our name out there is huge, we have been determined and practiced hard to be able to perform our best come game time," Peca said.

The stunt team opens their season on Jan. 28 at Davenport and will look to continue to build off the success and promise that current members of the cheer team have shown.

As the stunt team looks to develop into a competitive team, there is no mistaking the fact that the group looks to grow closer as it becomes bigger.

"My goals for this upcoming team is to become a stronger family, to get our name out there and to provide a safe and fun environment for anybody who has ever had a dream to become a college cheerleader," Peca said.

Home for the holidays

Ferris student-athletes look to keep their momentum

Danny Collins
Torch Reporter

A big challenge that student-athletes face is downtime and what to do with it to keep their edge.

While coaches understand the importance of resting their athletes for a couple of days, they also need their players to be aware of what is at stake when they arrive back on campus after a break.

Each team has their own specific workout regimens to follow while home for break and here are a few of those offered up by teams here at Ferris.

Men's hockey

The Ferris men's hockey team currently sits at 9-14-1 on the season overall. The team is also 6-9-1 in Western Collegiate Hockey Association (WCHA) play and sits at sixth in the conference standings.



Andrew Dorantes

"Being in good shape is huge in college hockey with such an intense schedule playing back-to-back nights almost every weekend," junior defenseman Zac Tierney said. "I personally do a lot of bike workouts to keep the cardio up, a couple skates on the ice to stay fresh and then some weight lifting in the gym to just keep the muscles moving. Coach

Daniels stresses taking the time to rest and enjoy time with our family but we need to make sure we stay in shape so we are ready to hop back into the second half when we come back."

Senior forward Drew Dorantes is entering his final season with the Bulldogs and has faced the challenge of heading home for breaks multiple times.

"Before we leave, we're fortunate to receive workouts from Dave Cencer, our strength trainer. For the two weeks we are off, we had six workouts provided," Dorantes said. "Other than that, the coaching staff feels it is important to take some time off and enjoy the holidays with family and friends."

Men's basketball

The nationally No. 10 ranked Ferris men's basketball team is currently 16-1 overall and is 6-1 in GLIAC play. The team is currently tied for first in the GLIAC standings.



Rachel McInerney

The team is coming off an 89-75 victory over Davenport Saturday, Jan. 6. The win marked head Coach Andy Bronkema's 100th career victory.

"The day after we played our last game before we went home for break, I took off to recover but after that I was lifting and working out with my trainer in Grand Rapids. I also got on the treadmill a couple times during break to mix it up," senior forward Peter Firlik said. "Coach Bronkema doesn't stress too much about staying in game shape because he knows how much we love the game and how important it is, especially halfway through the season to stay in good rhythm."

Women's basketball

The Ferris women's basketball team is currently 8-7 overall on the season and is 2-5 in GLIAC competition. The team sits at ninth in the GLIAC standings.

"As captains, we sent out accountability workout expectations for our team. For example, we wanted everyone to shoot five out of eight days that we had off, make 300 shots a day and shoot 100 free throws a day, interval cardio, etcetera and everyone got it done," senior captain Rachel McInerney said. "Our coaches can't ask us what we do over break because of certain rules, they simply told us to get good cardio workouts in and get a lot of shots up."

Applying the pressure



Photo by: Abbey Good | Multimedia Editor

Senior Leah Humes looks to get the ball down the court. After a solid start to the season, the team has taken a few losses recently.

Ferris women's hoops look to rebound after a tough December

Danny Collins
Torch Reporter

The Ferris women's basketball team is coming off a 68-63 GLIAC loss against the Davenport Panthers, Saturday, Jan. 6.

With the loss, the Bulldogs have lost six out of their last eight games. Five of those games have been on the road and one of their losses came against the Ashland Eagles who currently stand as the No. 1 nationally ranked team in the country.

In the month of December, the Bulldogs were on a skid, posting a 2-4 record and dropping three GLIAC games.

The women's team has shown signs of spectacular play this season, in which they started the season 6-0, more wins than their total from a year ago.

So, you may ask yourself what the trouble has been during this stretch.

"It's no secret that we hadn't won too many games our last two seasons, so when we came out so strong this year, we were super confident," redshirt sophomore guard Riley Blair

said. "We lost to the No. 1 team in the nation and a really good Northwood team and after that, I think we began to second guess ourselves. Saginaw had no business beating us, so that really lit a fire in us to make changes and I think we adjusted well."



Lexi Bush

The Bulldogs are currently 8-7 overall on the season and are 6-3 at home in Wink Arena.

Last season at this time, the team was 3-12 overall and had only one win at home, so clearly changes have been made in the offseason.

"As long as we believe in what we are capable of, we will create a lot of trouble in the GLIAC this season," Blair said.

The GLIAC conference is arguably one of the best in all of Division II for nearly every sport, including women's basketball. This year, there are currently two teams from the conference in the top 25 national rankings—Ashland and Michigan Tech, both of

which the Bulldogs will face twice.

"I think we have gotten a little complacent. I think this stretch has been a reality check for us and a wake-up call that though we are good, we still have to work hard night in and night out," junior guard Lexi Bush said. "The GLIAC is such a tough conference, anyone can beat anyone on any given night."

The Bulldogs schedule doesn't get much easier in the month of January as the team will face Northern Michigan, who currently sits two spots ahead of the ninth-ranked Bulldogs in the GLIAC standings. The team will also face archrival Grand Valley State, who sits at second in the conference, on Saturday, Jan. 20.

"We talk about getting 1 percent better every day and focusing on the process. We have big goals but we know that it's the little things that get you to those big goals and I think that is what our coach stresses the most," Bush said.

The team will return home to Wink Arena to take on the No. 13 nationally ranked Michigan Tech Huskies at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 11.

Icy conditions

Icy roads ahead for back and forth Bulldogs

Jacob Carlson
Torch Reporter

As Michigan drivers have been slipping and sliding on the icy roads, Bulldog hockey has been excited to step back onto the ice of Ewigleben for the second half of a season that has a lot left for the taking.

The Bulldogs have found themselves not performing as well as they have in previous seasons and are looking to turn the tide sooner than later.

Ferris has shown what the team can do when at full potential, allowing nothing to hold it back from weekend sweeps nor the postseason success that head coach Bob Daniels' teams have become known for in recent years. Daniels knows that it's time for the team to start reaching that potential.

"We've got an uphill climb but I'm really excited about this climb. They want to win as bad as we do, so it's a partnership. We've all got to give a bit more," Daniels said.

The Bulldogs looked like they were hitting that potential in early November when their first win at Yost Ice Arena since 2006 propelled the team to six wins out of their next seven WCHA games. Sweeps against both teams from Alaska and splits on the road against Alabama-Huntsville and Michigan Tech put the team closer to where it wanted to be.

Unfortunately, the Bulldogs were not ready for a hard hit of being swept twice, one from the strong Northern Michigan team in Marquette to wrap up the year and the other from the Bowling Green State Falcons who did the same thing to welcome back the Bulldogs after the winter break.

The Bulldogs now sit in eighth place in the WCHA standings and are in desperate need of wins to try to gain ground on teams ahead of them like Northern and Bowling Green and to have a chance at a playoff spot. For a team not short on hunger right now, it's only fitting that one of the best at delivering a spark enters back into the lineup, as forward Andrew Mayer has returned from a hernia injury.



Photo by: Keith Salowich | Web Supervisor

Junior defenseman Zac Tierney makes a push down the ice against Bowling Green but is ultimately defeated 0-3.

"I'm so excited to get back into the lineup. We're ready to bounce back because conference play means a lot to us. I know getting good body checks in gets my team going and gets confidence and momentum on our side," Mayer said.

Mayer, who missed 10 games, is looking to provide the spark that the Bulldogs need and there is probably nobody better on the team to do it. His tenacious approach to the game and relentless aggression has earned him the nickname "Slayer."

Though Mayer may not be the guy to get the goals

coming for the Bulldogs, as he has just one point in 12 games this season, Mayer has certainly earned the nickname given to him on the ice, utilizing all of his 6-foot, 225-pound frame to put fear into opponents. Hopefully it's enough as the Bulldogs welcome some tough competition in the month of January.

Ferris hits the road Jan. 12 and 13 to face off against Lake Superior State before finishing off the month with a pair of series against Bemidji State and Michigan Tech at home.

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OPINIONS

“The fact that some of us even consider drunk driving is absolutely ridiculous.” - Megan Lewton, see below for story

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

I'm not really one for resolutions. For the most part, they're empty promises that we make to feel good about ourselves.

In reality, six months from now you probably won't be going to the gym everyday, or religiously filling out your journal every night, or entirely abstaining from fried food, soda or whatever your vice is.

The thing I hate about resolutions is just that they're meant to be absolute, and life just doesn't work that way.

So rather than coming up with

resolutions and posting them all over Facebook, only to go back and delete them in shame a few weeks from now, I took a different approach.

In the wee hours of the morning on Jan. 1, I laid in bed with my boyfriend and we talked about all the little things we want to change and do better with this year.

First, I want to make time to do my homework at the library a couple times a week. I tell myself I'm just as productive at home, but that's just not true.

I also want to spend less time on my phone. When I get home after class or work, I've tried to get in the habit of turning my ringer on, because I still need to be reachable, and leaving my phone on the end table by the front door.

I'll still send a text or set a reminder if I need to but I can't help but think about all the mind-numbing time that I've wasted scrolling through a timeline full of people that I don't care about and videos that I'll never remember.

I want to read more. When I was younger, nothing made me happier than curling up with a good book and losing myself in the pages (and I'll need something to fill the void that used to be cat videos on Facebook).

Finally, I want to make more of an effort to stay in touch with friends. Life gets so busy, it's easy to lose touch with people that used to be an everyday part of your life. It never hurts to see how someone is doing.

Not resolute

Drinking and not thinking

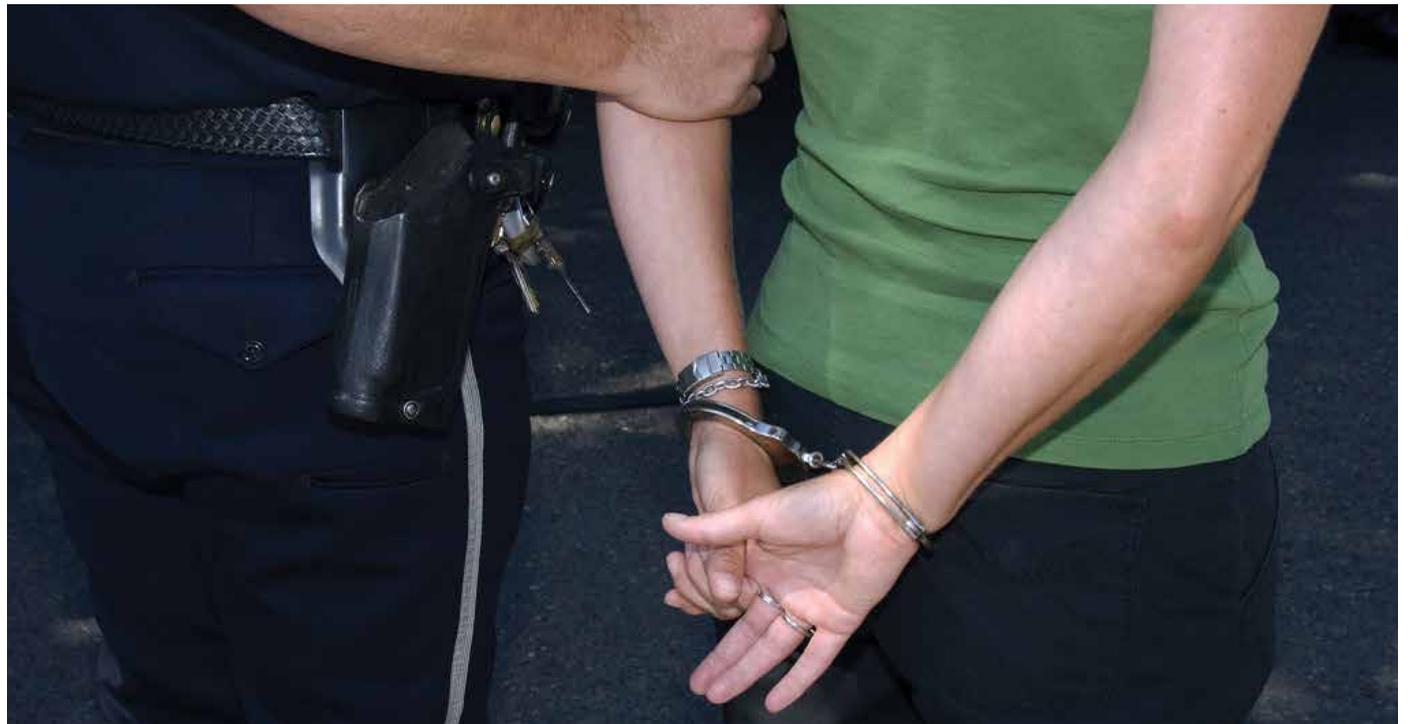


Photo courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

Beyond the dangers of drunk driving, legal ramifications for a first offense DUI in Michigan include up to 93 days in jail, up to \$500 in fines and as much as a six month license suspension.

Let's leave drunk driving in 2017



Megan Lewton
Torch Reporter

For a while, I thought it was redundant to inform people not to drink and drive. I always figured it was common sense and that most people wouldn't be foolish or selfish enough to do it.

Then I came to college.

Throughout my time at Ferris, I've been in way too many situations where my peers and even some of my close friends have encouraged drunk driving. I've gone out with friends and had our DD take a couple shots and then still offer to drive. I've had a friend adamantly explain to me that he could drive us somewhere a few drinks deep because he was "good at drunk driving."

I used to think that everyone knew that driving under the influence is incredibly dangerous. I'm writing this because my time at Ferris has proven this to be uncommon knowledge.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, in 2016 there were 10,497 fatalities from motor vehicle crashes with an alcohol-impaired driver. In other

words, in 2016, there was one fatality every 50 minutes.

Nationwide, it is illegal for a person to drive with a blood alcohol concentration of 0.08 percent or greater. This limit means different things for different people; the smaller the person is, the quicker he or she will reach this limit.

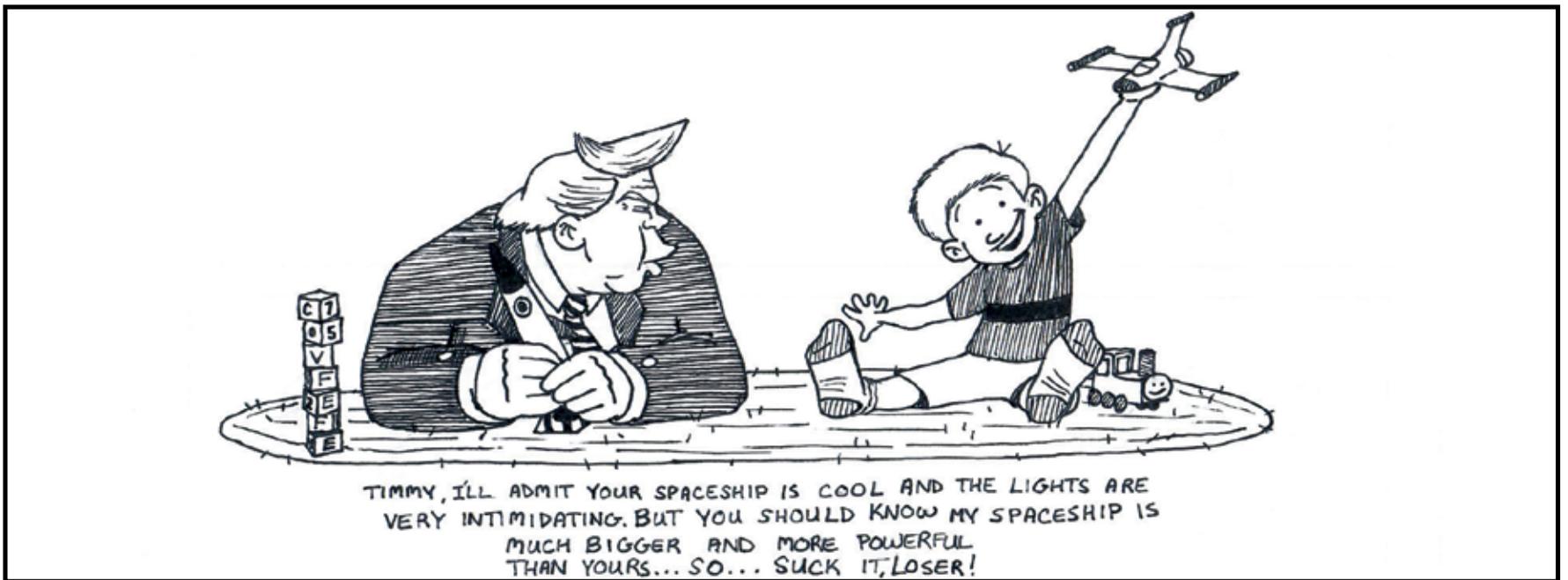
Driving under the influence is not only harmful to those in the car. Every time you get behind the wheel after consuming alcohol, you are putting everyone else on the roads and even the sidewalks in danger. No one deserves to be stripped of their loved one because someone made a reckless decision to drive drunk.

Aside from physical danger, drunk driving can have a serious legal impact as well. According to the Department of Motor Vehicles, conviction of a DUI or OWI in Michigan can lead to fines, imprisonment, community service, points on your license or license suspension.

It's 2018. We are adults. The fact that some of us even consider drunk driving is absolutely ridiculous. It has the potential to be damaging to so many people, including people who are doing nothing wrong and are simply in the wrong place at the wrong time.

There are more ways to get home than driving yourself if you've had too much to drink. SafeRide in Big Rapids is a free shuttle service that runs during the weekends and takes students home. It picks up at Gypsy Nickel, Sawmill Saloon, Shooters and the Gate. If you're in a city that has Uber or Lyft, you can always get a ride that way to avoid driving. And of course, you can always ask a sober roommate or friend to pick you up and take you home. It's likely that your friends would rather come and pick you up in the middle of the night than have you put yourself in a dangerous situation that could cost you your life.

Let's start the new year off right. If you've been drinking at all, your best bet is to have someone else drive you home or wait until you sober up. Even driving the shortest distance while drunk has the potential to be fatal. It is never worth the risk.



Cartoon by: Samuel McNeill | Cartoonist

The kids aren't alright

Toxic people create toxic relationships

We are surrounded by people who can either inspire us to live out our dreams or ruin our lives. The power we give people to effect us is unique in each relationship and sometimes people abuse that power in every way that hurts.

Cutting ties with family members is one of the hardest decisions we may face in life. It is an incredibly difficult thing that I have personally struggled with the past few years.

For people trying to endure the holiday season, the slump after Christmas can be rough to reconcile when everyone talks about how amazing their family is. Toxicity poisons your life in a variety of ways, from passive aggressiveness to verbal altercations.

Being in college means that many are experiencing what it's like to live away from home for the first time. Sometimes that is all it takes to recognize the way people mistreat you.

Family estrangement comes with its own baggage of guilt and heartbreak. We are raised to believe that end-



Marley Tucker
Opinions Editor

ing relationships with "family" is inherently wrong and sacrilegious.

The quotation "blood is thicker than water" is commonly used to justify sticking by destructive family. However, the real version of the quotation completely changes the meaning. The quote comes from: "The blood of the covenant is thicker than the water of the womb."

Family isn't just tied to our genetic code or societal expectations. The nuclear family is quickly changing shape, and the "Leave it To Beaver" archetype is turning into a fever dream the further we edge away from the 1950s.

Family isn't meant to cast someone aside like a broken toy or ask for help out of convenience.

I try and surround myself with people that care unconditionally. Even now, I struggle with cutting out hurtful relationships, because a lot of the time people don't acknowledge that they are toxic and I am the bad guy for calling them out.

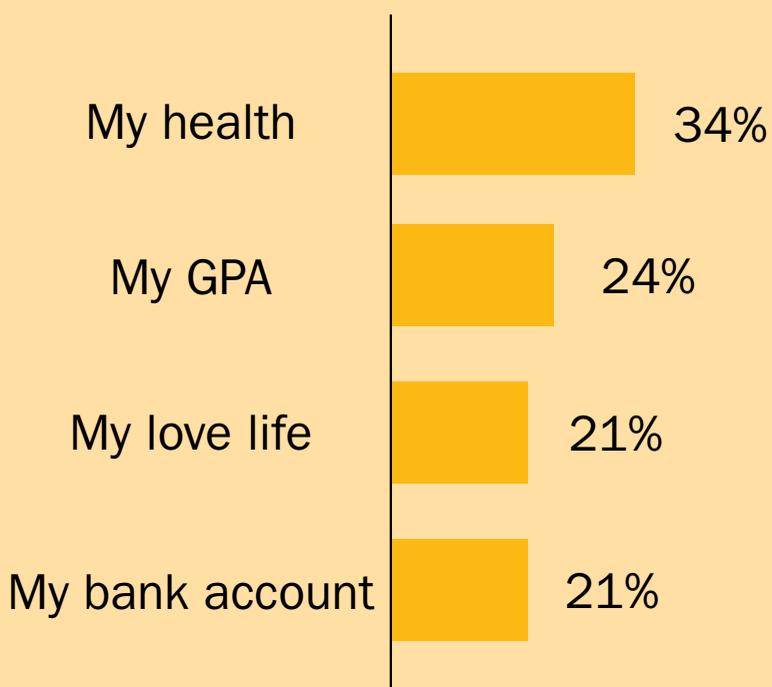
In fact, familial estrangement is a lot more common than you might think. In "Debunking Myths About Estrangement" the *New York Times* highlighted myths people believe about cutting ties. It was found that when adult relatives willingly sever contact with each other because of a longstanding negative relationship, it is neither unique or easily repairable.

Unfortunately, Hallmark movies don't always mesh with real life—grand declarations of forgiveness don't just happen out of thin air.

I just want to tell everyone who struggles with toxic people in their lives that wanting to cut them out of your life doesn't make you a bad person. You are enough.

TORCH POLL RESULTS

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Five years and counting

I don't regret community college



Brianna Hammontree
Torch Reporter

I've been in college since fall of 2013. I'm finally a senior, after attending Ferris to get a bachelor's degree in journalism. So you may be thinking, why am I still here?

I'm a transfer student, having attended community college right after I graduated from high school.

There are a lot of thoughts and opinions out there circulating the drain that is community college: some think it's a waste of time, others think it saves money and so on.

As someone who has experienced community college but is also finishing off her college career at a university, I'm here to say it does both—depending on your own goals.

I found community college to be rather rewarding. I was able to meet new people, save money by staying at home and avoid student loans for all of my general education courses.

Community college also helped me decide on my major as I took a variety of classes to pursue my interests at a cheaper price.

That's the name of the game, isn't it?

However, despite what community college can offer in price, I found it can lack in the classes offered. The community college I attended did not offer courses that could really help my major, drawing out my graduation to 2019.

I wouldn't encourage a student who knows they want to go into pharmacy to attend a community college if they can easily attend the school that is better for their major. Sometimes the transfer experience draws out your education for a longer period and in today's job market that can be a gamble.

Community college also doesn't always have the biggest campus community. I know my own community college, North Central Michigan College, didn't have a mascot. Attending a university offers students more of social life, with events like games and concerts to draw people in.

Even in a small town like Big Rapids, we create our own culture that is unique to every Bulldog.

So while I admit I regret not having attended a university sooner, I wouldn't take back my community college experience for anything.

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