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HERE'S WHAT'S INSIDE

ROAD WORK AHEAD

Ferris commuters are about to have their dreams come true. Read up on the new commuter parking spaces coming to campus.

NEWS | PAGE 4

"A QUIET PLACE"

Have you seen John Krasinski's new horror-suspense film? Editor in Chief Angela Graf gives her two cents!

LIFESTYLES | PAGE 9

Going wild at Wink

blackbear performs at annual Music Takes Action event

Grant Siddall
Torch Reporter

Many fans and artists alike at this year's Music Takes Action were happy with the performances and atmosphere of the event.

The sold out show, which was headlined by hip-hop artist blackbear, took place Saturday, April 7, at Wink Arena. For the two opening acts, the show was one of the largest they had performed at.



Jared Mahone

"The crowd was very hyped and it was pretty fun to do. I play a lot of smaller venues, so I don't usually get that kind of reaction unless I'm opening for someone like this. I don't really play for crowds like this, so it was really cool," opening act Jared Mahone said. "I did not think it was going to go very well. When it's crowds like this, I usually only connect with about 10 or 15 people that really like music but this was like a club, like come party and have fun, and that's super fun."

The event started with Ferris' own Fanpatstic, then Jared Mahone took the stage, followed by blackbear for

the headlining set.

"We got here pretty early and stayed for the whole time and the openers were really fun," Ferris criminal justice sophomore Jack Foreman said. "I thought the show was really fun, I had a great time and all the artists were great."

The first opener of the night was Ferris music industry management senior Patrick Cunningham, who performs under the name Fanpatstic.

"It was crazy. That was definitely the biggest show I've done as Fanpatstic. It was really cool to do that my senior year here at Ferris, I'm in the music industry management program, so it almost feels like some kind of senior thesis or something, it's so crazy," Cunningham said. "It was insane. In the hour or two before we went on, we kept looking at the crowd and every time we would go back, there would be more and more people until there was, like, north of one thousand. When I was up there singing and people had their phone lights on it was just the greatest feeling and just so cool."

The main event of the night was blackbear's performance, which started about 20 minutes late but still drew positive reactions from the crowd.

"I thought the show was amazing. [blackbear] had a lot of energy and made everyone feel like they could produce whatever energy they wanted and have a good time," Ferris psychology junior Dani Jandura said. "My favorite song he played was 'Chateau' because he opened with it."



Dani Jandura



Photo by: Abbey Good | Multimedia Editor

Famous hip-hop artist, blackbear, performed at Ferris for a free concert.



Photo by: Abbey Good | Multimedia Editor

Ferris music industry management senior Patrick Cunningham performed under the name Fanpatstic as the opening act for the Music Takes Action concert.

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“The punishment was a function of the perceived issues, not the number of students.”
- Dean David Nicol - See page 3 for story

Harley Harrison | News Editor | harrih12@ferris.edu

Safety first



Photo by: Kaitlyn Kirchner | Torch Photographer

Ferris professional golf management sophomore Emily Nowak says that dependable transportation is the first thing that students should have before planning a night out.

Preparing for a night out

Jordan Johnigan
Torch Reporter

The night of your life may turn into a living hell in a matter of moments with flashing lights in your rear-view mirror. Luckily, there are unspoken heroes who ensure people make it home in one piece.

The unwritten duties of a designated driver (DD) go beyond ensuring a safe journey. Wrangling your sloppy friends, late night fast food runs, a hype playlist and finding places for the crew to crash are all laws of the land. Ferris sophomore and forensic biology major Delaney Fedewa has

her made fair share of late night rescue missions with a trashed troop in tow.

“All the stops we have to make and them not listening can be [frustrating] but you’re like the parent of all of them at that point,” Fedewa said.

There’s also the aspect of the safety of the driver that need be taken into account as well. You may seem obligated to give a ride to a random person begging you to take them home but there are other options.

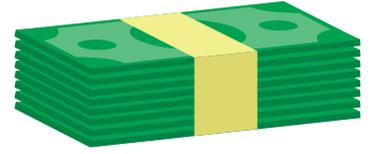
“If I’m DD and someone I don’t know asks me to just give them a ride to their apartment, I would offer to call them a cab,” Fedewa said.

SafeRide and cab services are always an option for those without a designated driver. Don’t make the mistake of getting behind the wheel and never let your friends drive drunk.

“Cabs and Ubers are fun because you don’t know the person and you can goof off, either way always have fun with your DD, you’re drunk and they’re your friend so enjoy it,” Ferris junior and plastics major Nick Grabill said.

At the end of the day when you’re turned up, make sure you have a DD on call or a favorite taxi service to ensure a safe ride home.

Mo’ money, mo’ problems



Tuition increases may be causing lower enrollment

Cora Hall
Torch Reporter

The price to attend college increases every year and for students who struggle to obtain federal financial aid, it could mean the end of their higher education.

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the Consumer Price Index for college tuition and fees increased 63 percent from January 2006 to July 2016 and housing at school increased 51 percent.

Ferris’ tuition has leapt from \$10,950 in 2014 to \$12,180 in 2018, which is a 10 percent increase and enrollment is down by nearly 1,000 since 2015, according to the Ferris Fact Book. For many Ferris students, being able to pay tuition or their student loans is a significant concern.



Gabrielle Neal

“It’s something that will stick around and hang over my head while I try to apply for other loans or mortgages. It affects what I can afford while adding

a very minimal addition to my salary,” Ferris business administration sophomore Will Kube said.

Students in the middle class—which comprises of about 50 percent of Americans, according to Pew Research Center—will suffer the most from the rise in tuition because colleges will more likely focus financial aid on low-income families. Middle-income students fail to meet the low-income cutoff for most financial aid programs from the college and the government, according to the Washington Examiner.

“If I didn’t have my dad’s veteran’s stuff, I probably wouldn’t get enough and I would struggle but I feel like their boundaries or who they think needs more help is kind of skewed, because college is so expensive nowadays that the upper end of middle class families is struggling to send their kids to college,” Ferris chemical engineering sophomore Gabrielle Neal said.

Kube also said while he believed the federal aid program has the right intentions, it’s poorly executed and while lower-income families should get more help, it hurts students from middle-income families who miss the cut off for more financial aid and then are in debt for the rest of their lives.

“Most people find a way to make ends meet,” Kube said, “I think it’s a good learning moment to know what it’s like to be at the bottom of the barrel—to push people to want to be successful—so they never want to live like that again.”

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- ON THE RECORD -

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

Tryin' to catch me ridin' dirty

Harley Harrison
News Editor

It wasn't me

March 26, 11:30 a.m., officers received a claim of malicious destruction of property in Lot 66. The case was closed after a lack of leads.

Calm down

March 26, 8:08 p.m., officers investigated a report of assault and battery in Finch Court. Two subjects were referred to the Of-

fice of Student Conduct.

Mad disrespect

March 28, 12:50 p.m., after a report of malicious destruction of property in Lot 5, officers began an investigation, which is still open.

They see me rollin'

March 30, 10:37 p.m., officers investigated a report of extortion in the 21000 block of 12 Mile Road. The case has been closed.

They hatin'

April 1, 12:09 a.m., officers encountered a narcotics equipment violation and possession of controlled substances with the intent to deliver in Lot 65. One person was arrested.

Tryin' to catch me ridin' dirty

April 1, 11:28 p.m., two subjects were arrested and two students were referred to the Office of Student Conduct after officers found a controlled substance violation in Lot 61.

A closer look

April 3, 10 p.m., officers assisted hall staff in an investigation of damage to property in Ward Hall. The case was closed after a lack of leads.

A grave night

April 4, 8:49 p.m. officers responded to a report of criminal sexual conduct in Hallisy Hall. The investigation is still open.

"Caught in the act" update

Many business students see grade reductions as a result of widespread cheating

Grant Siddall & Megan Lewton
Torch Reporters

Ferris recently uncovered three semesters worth of cheating in a business course after a professor found a way to track the origin of submitted assignments.

While the specific course the cheating took place in is classified, however, Ferris College of Business dean David Nicol said that the course was a 100 level class that was not a prerequisite for many courses.

The cheating that the university tracked covered the spring, summer and fall semesters of 2017 and multiple sections of the course, and found upwards of 80 students to be involved.

According to Nicol, the program that was used to track the assignments was similar to turnitin.com, which is a popular plagiarism checker used by multiple professors at Ferris. Nicol said the program showed the original origin of the assignment and each time that it was submitted. Many students claimed that the reason for them submitting the same assignment was because they worked as a group on the assignment.

"If it's a study group, the caveat ought to be you can work to develop your awareness but then you have to do your own submission. You're getting graded individually, you aren't getting graded as a group. If it's individually graded as a submission, do it yourself," Nicol said.

Nicol said that, moving forward, syllabi will be more explicit about the rules for submitting work so they can avoid any confusion. He also added that punishments for the cheating didn't lead to anything more severe than grade reductions.

"The faculty made the determination but I believe it was just a standard one or two grade drop across the board for all of those found to be [guilty]. It couldn't just be dismissed and as I understand it, the process engaged by student conduct were with the intent to reinforce values, not to exercise severe punishment but on the other hand, not to enable," Nicol said.

The university's official response to the incident does not address the specific allegations or the punishments that were issued. The original statement released in November stated that Ferris was looking into

the issue and that appropriate action will take place when the review is completed. After multiple inquiries by the *Torch* into the issue, a new statement was released.

"Ferris State University was made aware, during the fall 2017 semester, of allegations of student academic misconduct involving multiple sections of a course. That type of conduct goes against the core values of the institution. The Office of Student Conduct has worked with the faculty and appropriate action was taken. The university process is complete and there is nothing new to report," the statement read.

Ferris students had mixed reactions to the reported punishments that were handed down by student conduct. Some students, like Ferris applied speech communications junior Tristan Scribner, thought the disciplinary action taken against these students was appropriate.

"I certainly hope we can trust them to make the appropriate decision on that because, hopefully, they've been at this job for who knows how many years and have experience and ideally, you'd want them to know what to do," Scribner said.

Others questioned why the students didn't face expulsion, such as Ferris television and digital media production junior Carolann Grover.

"The reason why I'm pretty sure they didn't actually get expelled, in my personal opinion, is because we need that tuition that they're providing. So if you expel 60 students, that's a lot of money you're losing. Plus, you just built a newer dorm hall, you produced a newer nap pod, you also introduced a newer snack shack type of thing, which costs a lot of money. You're losing that money you're getting from those students," Grover said.

Nicol said he doesn't think that the amount of students played into the punishments at all, and that it was based on the severity of the actions and not the amount of people.

"The punishment was a function of the perceived issues, not the number of students. If it had been five people, from what I'm aware of, I don't think the actions taken would have been any different," Nicol said.

NEWS BRIEFS

Harley Harrison
News Editor

Latin@ Studies program fifth anniversary celebration

Come to the Interdisciplinary Resource Center Wednesday, April 11, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. to celebrate the Center for Latin@ Studies (CLS) and their successes over the past five years. For more information, call CLS at (231) 591-2470.

Ferris media festival

Join the School of Digital Media and the Media Communication Association for an event featuring media professionals from all over the region. The festival will take place Friday, April 13, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and prospective attendees can contact Jonathon Eaton at eatonj7@ferris.edu.

Paws in the 'PARC'

Support the Animal Rescue Coalition at the Hemlock Park pavilion Saturday, April 14, from 12:30 p.m. to 3 p.m. for a 5k walk. Participants can register for \$10 and attendees are welcome to bring their pets. For more information, contact Alyssa Cosselmon at cossela@ferris.edu.

WEEKLY WORLD NEWS

Catch up on news around the globe

Harley Harrison
News Editor

Rich, April 5, 2018. *The New York Times*.

San Bruno, California

Nasim Najafi Aghdam injured three people by gunfire at the YouTube headquarters in San Bruno. One victim is in critical condition and two are in fair condition. Aghdam shot and killed herself by the time police officials arrived on the scene.

Original story by Maggie Astor and Maya Salam, April 3, 2018. *The New York Times*.

Tokyo, Japan

Sumo wrestling rules have been under scrutiny after women were shoed out of the ring despite an attempt to save a politician who collapsed while delivering a speech. One of the women was a nurse who came to administer CPR until the referee demanded the women leave the dohyo due to the sexist rules. A man took over CPR until the male emergency workers arrived. The politician was taken to the hospital and is in stable condition.

Original story by Motoko

São Paulo, Brazil

A federal judge ordered former President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva of Brazil to begin a 12-year prison sentence for corruption. da Silva was planning on running for a third term and while he could appeal the court's decision, officials say that his chances of making the election ballot are very slim.

Original story by Shasta Darlington, April 5, 2018. *The New York Times*.

China

The Chinese government banned online retailers from selling the Bible in measures to limit Bible sales in the effort to limit the influence of Christianity in China. The only place citizens can legally buy the Bible in China is church bookstores, however, religious texts for Buddhism, Taoism and Islam are all available online.

Original story by Ian Johnson, April 5, 2018. *The New York Times*.

Torch Corrections

Did we make a mistake? Let us know!

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Road work ahead

Did someone say more parking?

Cora Hall
Torch Reporter

The cries of the people have been heard.

The plan has been approved for 45 more commuter spots to be added to Lot 36 by the Business Building, with the hopes that the project will be completed this summer before the start of the fall semester, according to Ferris Associate Vice President for the Physical Plant Michael Hughes.

According to Ferris pre-pharmacy sophomore Sara Aljawawi, the current limited parking on campus requires her to leave her home earlier, since it takes a while to find a spot.



Sara Aljawawi

"It's not the best, a lot of the time you have to come to class 15 to 20 minutes early—and I live two minutes away—just to get a parking spot," Aljawawi said. "It's really bad in the afternoon. If I have a class at noon, I have to leave 15-20 minutes early or I'll have to park all the way across campus and walk to class."

However, despite the extra spots, students are not extremely pleased with the location of the new spots. Aljawawi said that these spots will help the business students but for those with classes on the north side of campus, it's still a long walk. Some students suggest that the University Center (UC) and academic buildings on north campus would be a better location due to the heavy foot traffic.

"Yes, that'd be a lot better because [the UC] is kind of where everyone goes," Ferris pre-pharmacy freshman Remington Wurtz said.



Photo by: Megell Strayhorn | Torch Photographer

Construction workers brave the harsh winter temperatures to get campus construction completed on time.

Other ongoing projects that are planned for substantial completion for the start of the fall semester include the Swan Annex and Student Recreation Center renovations, according to Hughes. Miscellaneous residence hall improvements will be made as well as six parking lots being repaved

during the summer. According to Hughes, The Katke Professional Golf Association Ken Janke Sr. Golf Learning Center project is also scheduled to break ground this spring, with a ceremony planned for April 28.



Opening day

The new Big Rapids Bulldog Cinema opened Saturday, April 7, with a showing of "A Wrinkle in Time."

Photo by: Abbey Good | Multimedia Editor

Battle of the blood



Photo by: Abbey Good | Multimedia Editor

The Bulldogs battle the Lakers in a blood drive to see which university can save the most lives.

Bulldogs and Lakers go head-to-head

Landry Shorkey
Interim Reporter

The Ferris Red Cross student chapter teamed up with Grand Valley last week for some healthy competition to help save lives.



Madison Osgood

It was the first blood drive battle between the rival schools, which members of the student Red Cross organization hope to make an annual event.

The number of people who donated at the Ferris blood drive Wednesday, April 4, in the UC was tallied and Grand Valley will be working to beat this number in their own drive this week.

"I've had a lot of students come up and ask me questions about it, because they've always wanted to donate but they've never really had the chance to. They said that having us here in the UC made it a lot easier for them to make that step," Ferris dental hygiene sophomore and Red Cross social media chair Madison Osgood said.



Lauren Burkhardt

Ferris pre-pharmacy junior and president of the student Red Cross organization Lauren Burkhardt felt that the event was a potential op-

portunity to provide aid across the country.

"It's a really good way to help not only the Big Rapids community but to help people all over. After the Las Vegas shooting, some of the blood from Red Cross was sent over there. When you donate blood, you get a letter in the mail later saying where it went and how it helped somebody," Burkhardt said.



Caitlin McCallion

Ferris criminal justice senior Caitlin McCallion was one of the many people who chose to donate their blood for the cause.

"I just think it's really important to help people out. It seems silly to have a shortage of blood, it's something so simple," McCallion said.

Members of the student Red Cross chapter have organized a blood drive for almost every month of the 2017-18 school year and they encourage students to consider donating in the future.

Information tables are set up in the UC before each drive, where students can learn more about how to give blood. Previous donors can make appointments using the Red Cross app and walk-ins are always welcomed.

At the end of the battle, Ferris had 40 blood donors, which was enough to save 120 lives. The winner of the competition will be announced after the Grand Valley drive is complete and the results are compiled.



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LIFESTYLES

"It's definitely cool to meet a lot of people that have the same interest as you."
- Rachael Rodenhouse - See page 9 for story

Alicia Jaimes | Lifestyles Editor | jaimesa@ferris.edu

Dress for success

Show employers you mean business



For women:

- No heavy makeup
- Two-piece, matched suit in a conservative color
- Tailored blouse or knit top that does not show cleavage and doesn't gape at the chest
- Leather shoes with a closed toe, no taller than 2" heel and matching tights or nylons
- Carry only one bag or tote
- No heavy perfume
- Clean and trimmed fingernails

For men:

- Clean-shaven face or neatly trimmed beard
- Two-piece suit that is clean and pressed in a conservative color
- Long-sleeved shirt, even in summer
- Make sure your belt matches the color of your shoes
- Dark dress shoes
- Conservative tie or one that is a solid color
- No earrings
- Clean and trimmed fingernails
- No heavy cologne

Graphic by: Hannah Way | Interim Production Assistant

Prepare the day before

More tips from *The First Lady's Attic*

Kat Merby
Torch Reporter

Professional attire can be obtained with quite the pretty penny these days. Luckily, at The First Lady's Attic, located in the University Center Room 134, students can pick up an outfit for free every year that they attend Ferris.

- Lay out your interview outfit the evening before and check for stains, tears or missing buttons.
- Make sure your interview clothing is clean and well pressed.
- Except for women's earrings, avoid body piercing jewelry.
- Avoid heavy perfume, cologne and after-shave.
- Men should be clean-shaven. A carefully trimmed beard or mustache is also acceptable. Avoid stubble that looks like a few days of growth.
- If possible, cover your tattoos.
- Do not wear flashy jewelry or watches.
- Hair should be fully restrained so it does not hang in front of your eyes.

What defines you?

A personal journey to building a portfolio



Briana Hammtree
Torch Reporter

As a senior in the journalism and technical communication program, I just recently had my portfolio reviewed by professionals in my field.

The experience of knowing and having professionals look at your work is admittedly intimidating but I found the closer I got to the review, the less concerned I was about presenting.

I had practiced the night before but hadn't gotten much sleep—approximately three hours, which is more of a nap than anything else. While I don't advocate for it, my body was running on pure adrenaline the next day, which ultimately calmed my nerves.

However, the journey that led up to the point of standing in a classroom in front of my peers, professors and professionals was quite stressful.

There are so many key components that make up a portfolio. I remember my professor and advisor, Dr. Sandy Balkema, asking us one day when we really first started to dig deep into the subject was, "Start thinking about what fonts define you. What colors are you?" In the coming weeks, never have I thought I would think so hard on whether I defined myself as a serif or sans-serif font and whether I identified more with one color over another.

While I've been collecting my work for years now, designing my portfolio and putting everything together took over a week to do. I remember one Monday I was in the library working on the design portion of my digital portfolio and ended up spending 12 hours in there. Those 12 hours were spent simply playing with color schemes, font types and the overall layout of my portfolio.

It seems odd to emphasize on the importance of font in a portfolio but font choice is almost similar in the same way being creative and playing with shapes and layout would benefit a graphic design portfolio.

We work with words and written communication and the font choice communicates that role. For instance, I find myself as someone whose overall style is modern, classic, clean and simple. Therefore, I was drawn to fonts like Century Gothic and Quicksand, which would represent my style and aesthetic.

Really put thought into what work you think really defines who you are. I would advise anyone who has to make a portfolio to be consistently working on it, as it is something that you will utilize for the rest of your career.

April opportunities

*Have some last hurrahs
before finals week*

Alicia Jaimes
Lifestyles Editor

Friday, April 20

Dribble for kibble

Time: 5-10 p.m.

Place: Ewigleben Sports Complex

Second chance prom

Time: 8-11 p.m.

Place: UCB 202A

Saturday, April 21

Sexual Assault Awareness Month: Walk a Mile

Time: 2-4 p.m.

Place: Campus Quad

FSU jazz band & alumni concert

Time: 8 p.m.

Place: Williams Auditorium

Sunday, April 22

Voca Lyrica Spring Concert: The Joy is in the Journey

Time: 4-6 p.m.

Place: Big Rapids High School

Tuesday, April 24

Tips and strategies to prepare for your final exams

Time: 11-11:50 a.m.

Place: Science 102

Shakespeare Festival

Time: 11 a.m.-12 p.m.

Place: North Quad

Thursday, April 26

Therapy dogs on the Quad

Time: 6-7 p.m.

Place: Campus Quad

Sunday, April 29

FSU bands & orchestra spring concert

Time: 4 p.m.

Place: Williams Auditorium

Clean Love



Photo by: Abbey Good | Multimedia Editor

The Clean Love Project promoted female empowerment by donating hygiene products.

Starbucks works to help women in the Metro-Detroit area

Briana Hammontree
Torch Reporter

Having worked with the nonprofit organization the Clean Love Project, Starbucks spent all of March collecting essential hygiene products for the young women in the Metro-Detroit area.

The Clean Love Project's goal is to make women and young girls who are either homeless, live in poverty or have suffered domestic violence to feel not only clean but loved and empowered.

By doing this, the project provided Clean Love hygiene kits, which hold various items including toothbrushes, tampons, cosmetics and socks.

"This is important for us to look out for these women because what they have is the clothes on their backs and their children, so donating these toiletries really does help them. If you donate makeup for example, it helps them research themselves and find their own beauty. Or tampons for instance, because they don't usually have those at shelters—that's a luxury," Ferris music industry management fourth year Cat LoSchiavo said.

Lacey Catarino founded the Clean Love Project after she spent time volunteering in the Metro-Detroit area for other causes and felt inspired to contribute to helping the community.

The project was founded in January 2015, with the Clean Love Project Drive hosted by Starbucks lasting a total of four weeks during the month of March.

"I know our store is always looking for opportunities to better its community or move towards nonprofit work—anything we can do to help. So we were excited about this project and wanted to bring it to campus," LoSchiavo said.

Ferris hospitality management senior Kayly Zimmer is a student manager at Starbucks. Her role she was to inform customers about the opportunity to donate to the Clean Love Project.

"Having a chance to give back to the community is a humbling experience. It also teaches our staff that community is important and that we as individuals should do our best to reach out and help any way possible," Zimmer said.

Despite the Clean Love Project coming to an end for this school year, students were able to help in various ways during the month of March and continue to help in other ways.



Lizzy Miedzielec

"Students can still find many ways to give back to women's wellness by donating to local shelters. There is a consignment shop in Big Rapids called Fabulous Find that donates a lot of money to the WISE shelter, which is a shelter for victims of domestic violence. Students can volunteer there or come in or shop and donate," Ferris respiratory therapy sophomore Lizzy Miedzielec said.

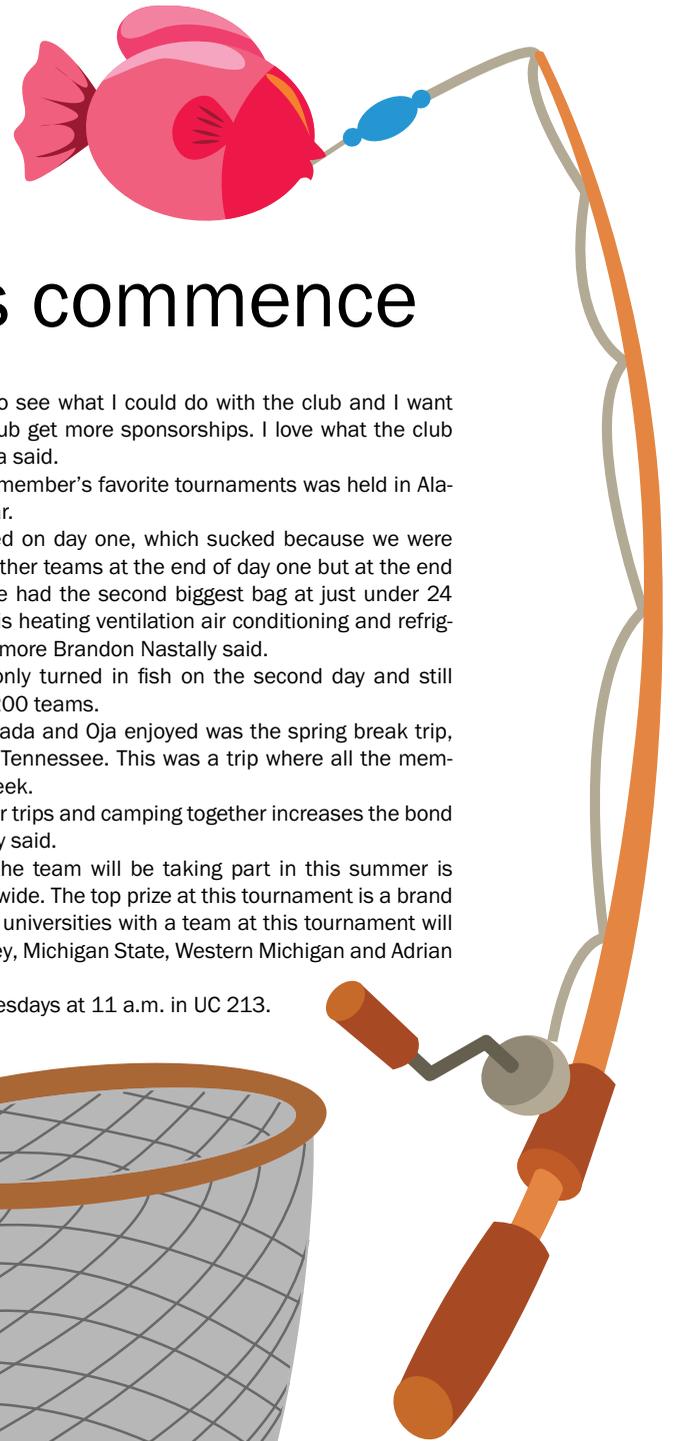
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Reel it in



As snow thaws, spring activities commence

Katlin Merby
Torch Reporter

Convincing friends to do common activities in college can be a struggle for some. For the members of the Ferris Fishing Club, they have been lucky to hook some dedicated members.

"I joined the club four years ago because I found out that the team actually went to tournaments around the state and country," Ferris heating, ventilation, air conditioning and refrigeration senior Chris Oja said.

The fishing club fishes primarily for large or smallmouth bass. The goal at each tournament is to catch five bass and have the highest weighing fish or collection of fish. The advisor, Chuck Rathbun, finds out who is hosting tournaments and where they are located.

At a typical meeting, paperwork to enter tournaments is taken care of. Members discuss new ideas for the club as well as new suggestions for potential sponsors. Some of the team's current sponsors are Give 'Em a Break Michigan, Kent companies and Star Shooters of Big Rapids. Dues for the club are \$200 for a year and goes towards a jersey, hoodie and tournaments.

"People should join the club if they are seriously interested in fishing and going to tournaments," Ferris welding engineering technology sophomore Bryce Canada said.

The club currently has about a dozen members according to Canada, who was recently elected to be president next year.



Bryce
Canada

"I wanted to see what I could do with the club and I want to help the club get more sponsorships. I love what the club does," Canada said.

One of the member's favorite tournaments was held in Alabama last year.

"We blanked on day one, which sucked because we were tied with 66 other teams at the end of day one but at the end of day two, we had the second biggest bag at just under 24 pounds," Ferris heating ventilation air conditioning and refrigeration sophomore Brandon Nastally said.

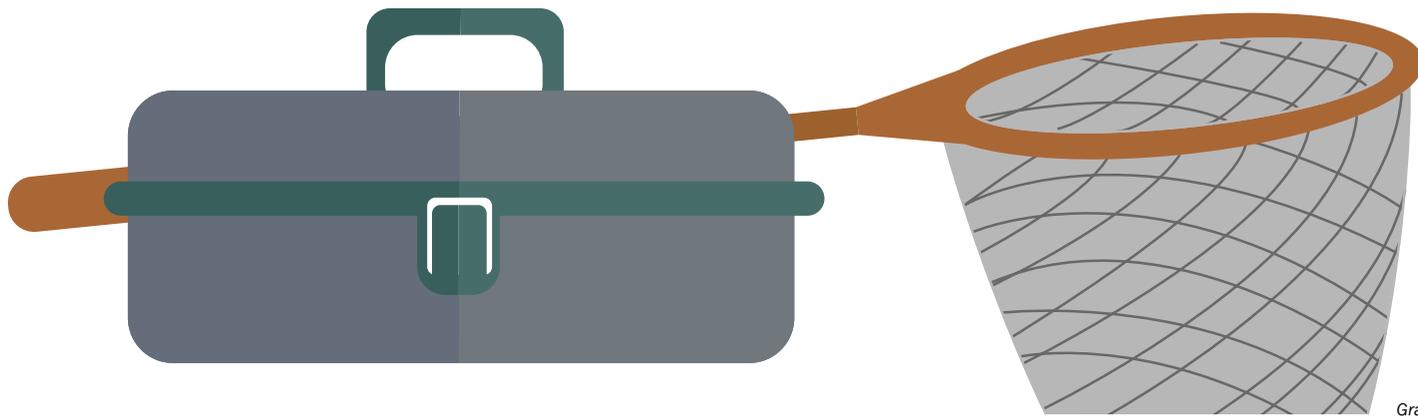
The team only turned in fish on the second day and still managed to place 52nd out of 200 teams.

Another tournament that Canada and Oja enjoyed was the spring break trip, which was at Kentucky Lake in Tennessee. This was a trip where all the members camped together for the week.

"We do a lot of camping for our trips and camping together increases the bond between the members," Nastally said.

The tournament series that the team will be taking part in this summer is called the Fishing League Worldwide. The top prize at this tournament is a brand new \$10,000 boat. Some other universities with a team at this tournament will be Central Michigan, Grand Valley, Michigan State, Western Michigan and Adrian College.

Club meetings are held on Tuesdays at 11 a.m. in UC 213.



Graphic by: Sarah Massey | Production Manager

Second chance crafts

Students unwind after hours in CLACS, doing crafts they weren't able to do earlier in the semester due to class schedules.

Photo by: Abbey Good | Torch Photographer



Media Minute

“A Quiet Place”



Promotional image



Angela Graf
Editor-in-Chief

I absolutely love horror movies.

Ever since I was a little girl, possibly too little if you ask some people, nothing has been more fun or more thrilling than having the wits scared out of me by a well-done film. I even wrote for a horror blog for a spell in high school.

I've seen so many at this point that I have become more than a little picky about what I consider a good scary movie but “A Quiet Place” definitely makes my top five favorite modern horrors.

This film is right up there with “The Conjuring,” “Insidious” and “The Babadook.”

While I had my doubts about Jim Halpert directing a scary movie, John Krasinski did not disappoint in his first foray behind the camera.

What's more is, because he was acting alongside his real-life wife Emily Blunt, the chemistry between the two felt exceedingly genuine.

This movie took the old adage of a creature-feature and transformed it into something that came across as entirely original, which is a breath of

fresh air in the horror industry these days.

Featuring only several-dozen spoken words, viewers have to not only read subtitles but tune in to body language and facial expressions in a whole new way when watching this film.

There was very little music and background noise, so every little sound and movement felt like a jump-scare, which in my opinion made the experience all the more captivating.

Another key player in this powerhouse cast is Millicent Simmonds, who is actually deaf and plays the Abbots' preteen daughter.

While the role could easily have filled by a hearing actress, Krainski pushed for Simmonds and it payed off. She gave a great performance and added a whole new layer of depth to the film.

While undoubtedly exhausting to watch, because you're gripping the edge of your seat the whole time, “A Quiet Place” is superbly done and I highly recommend it to anyone thinking of going to the theater this month.

Saddle up



Photo by: Abbey Good | Multimedia Editor

When Ferris health care systems administration senior Miranda Jo Battle isn't at meetings, she spends her free time riding and bonding with her equine friend.

Painting, trail rides and competition

Holly Baker
Torch Reporter

The Ferris equestrian club is open to anyone with a love for horses, regardless of their experience.

“The main focus of the team is to make friends but to also learn about horses. We have had people on the team with zero horse experience and they just join the club and they have a chance to ride a horse and be around horses and just learn about them,” Ferris health care systems administration senior Miranda Battle said.

The club has two competitive teams that are open to members within the club. The competitive teams have opportunities to compete with other colleges around Michigan.

The hunt seat team involves flat and over fences riding. The riders

are judged on the horse's movement and form and the rider's ability.

“Our other team would be our stock seat team, so that's like riding the Western style and then within that we compete in a pattern class with spin and slides and circles,” Battle said.



Brenna Besko

When Ferris secondary education social studies major and longtime horse-lover Rachael Rodenhouse joined the equestrian team, she met a group of girls who quickly became her close friends.

“It's definitely cool to meet a lot of people that have the same interest as you. This is my first year do-

ing it but I've made a lot of friends doing it,” Rodenhouse said.

A primary part of the team is team bonding experiences. Throughout the semester, they participate in trail rides to relieve stress and have fun, which is something that Ferris pre-med senior Brenna Besko enjoys.

“During our meeting times, too, we discuss team bonding activities—like we did painting recently. We did that as a whole club or anyone who could attend. We try to get out and do bonding activities together and get to know each other better,” Besko said.

“It's all women but there's hardly any drama,” Battle said.

The equestrian club meets Monday nights at 7:30 p.m. in FLITE 214. To join, contact a representative through Facebook at Ferris State University Club Equestrian or through OrgSync.

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SPORTS

"It's really rewarding to see that you're doing something that is having a positive impact." - Sean Williams - See page 11 for story

Brendan Samuels | Sports Editor | samuelb1@ferris.edu

A new home for Hankins



Photo by: Keith Salowich | Web Supervisor

Ferris junior center Zach Hankins drives to the rim in the NCAA Division II National Championship game. Hankins will forgo his final year at Ferris and transfer to Xavier University in the fall.

Zach Hankins transferring to Division I program

Danny Collins
Torch Reporter

Some unexpected news took place in the Ferris Athletics community on Thursday, April 5, when junior center Zach Hankins announced he would not be with the Bulldogs come next season.

Hankins will forgo his final year as a Bulldog to complete a grad-transfer year at Division I Xavier University in Cincinnati.

Hankins, a mobile 6-foot-10, 255-pound beast on the basketball court, has great paint presence and rim protecting ability. Both skills were coveted by former teammates and will prove useful at the next level.

"Zach was a huge part of our team obviously, the center-piece, the man in the middle. He really protected the paint at will and made it tough for offenses to score," Ferris senior guard Drew Cushingberry said. "He deserves everything. He has worked so hard since we came here and I am truly happy for him.

"He means a whole lot to us. He's the best big in the country and it's not even close," Ferris senior wing Peter Firlik said. "He was great this year and he obviously was a big part of what we did."

Hankins will be graduating in May with his bachelor's degree in environmental biology and will be enrolled in the fall at Xavier. The National Collegiate Athletic Association

(NCAA) graduate transfer rule allows Hankins one more year of eligible play at the college level.

Hankins will be seeking his master's degree in business administration at Xavier.



Andy Bronkema

Xavier is a co-educational Jesuit Catholic university. The total enrollment in the school as of 2017 was 6,798, which is less than half of Ferris'.

Xavier plays in the Big East conference in NCAA Division I basketball. They compete against powerhouses such as Villanova, Seton Hall, Creighton, Butler, Marquette and Georgetown.

This will be a move that may help propel Hankins to the professional level based on a different level of competition.

"This Ferris program is Division I caliber and has amazing talent and coaching. But there's too much weight put on what division a school is when scouting is done," Hankins said. "This move puts me into a position to showcase the skills I've gained and honed at Ferris on a larger stage. I would've loved to play here another year if it were different but I'm also so blessed to find a great destination in Xavier."

During his time with the Bulldogs, Hankins helped lead his team to four straight NCAA Tournament appearances, back-to-back Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (GLIAC) regular season Championships and four straight GLIAC

Tournament Championships.

Hankins also received the National Association of Basketball Coaches (NABC) Division II National Player of the Year award for 2018.

This past season Hankins averaged 15.1 points per game, 9.7 rebounds per game and 3.3 blocks per game. He also holds the school's all time blocks record with 319 in his career and holds the record for the highest field goal percentage in school history at 64.2 percent. In the 2016-17 campaign, Hankins became the first sophomore in the history of the GLIAC to receive the Player of the Year award.

"I will miss Ferris more than I can ever really put into words. I'll miss our fans and all the love they've shown me," Hankins said. "My coaching staff, who gave me a small chance to play at this level and then developed me into the person and player I am now. Lastly, my teammates, we have such a close brotherhood and I am going to miss playing with them the most."

While Ferris fans may be sad to see Hankins go, he provided Ferris with years of excitement on the basketball court.

"This is a unique opportunity that doesn't happen often," Ferris men's basketball Head Coach Andy Bronkema said. "We appreciate all he did to help our program grow over the past four years and look forward to following his success in the years to come."

Top Dawg

Pablo Munoz Baroja

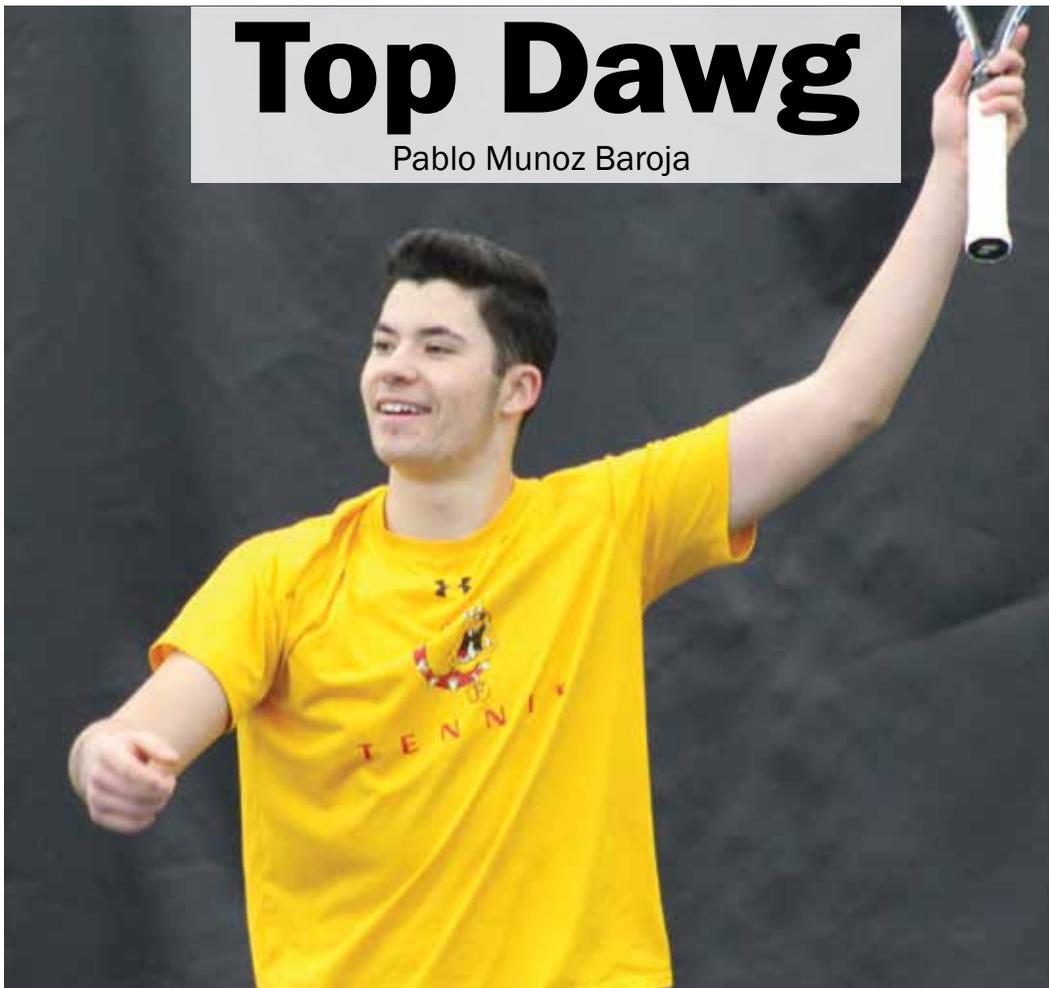


Photo by: Keith Salowich | Web Supervisor

Brendan Samuels
Torch Reporter

The Ferris men's tennis team is on fire and for the third straight week, Top Dawg honors is heading their way.

Sophomore Pablo Munoz Baroja had a solid outing for the Bulldogs when they took on the Wayne State Warriors Sunday, April 8, in Detroit.

Baroja started his day with a 9-7 doubles victory with freshman Mathis Guerre over Wayne State's Griffin Mertz and Taylor Vane.

In singles play, Baroja won the number five flight

over the Warriors' Harvey Reed by scores of 6-3 and 6-0.

With the victory over Wayne State, Baroja's Bulldogs remain unbeaten in GLIAC play and extend their current win streak to 12. Ferris currently sits at 16-2 overall.

Currently ranked as the No. 17 team in the nation, the Bulldogs will look to climb the rankings with consistent play from Baroja and company as the GLIAC Tournament is just over a week away.

The Bulldogs will be back in action Wednesday, April 11, when they take on the Davenport Panthers at 6 p.m. in Big Rapids.

Sports Shorts

Jacob Carlson
Torch Reporter

Hole-in-one

Ferris men's golfer and sophomore Joshua Jeffords took home last week's GLIAC Player of the Week.

Jeffords tied for first in the Wisconsin-Parkside Invitational at Otter Creek Golf Club in Columbus, Indiana. Jeffords shot a 141 that put him in a four-way tie for first place in the tournament. It was Jeffords' first time winning a collegiate tournament.

A special visit

The Ferris men's basketball team got a chance to meet up with Michigan Governor Rick Snyder, who congratulated the Bulldogs on their recent national championship with a special proclamation.

The team got a chance to share conversation with the governor, who posed for pictures with members of the team in celebration of the program's first national title.

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Hand in hand

RSO and sports communications classes join hands to help raise funds for Area 5 Special Olympics

Jacob Carlson
Torch Reporter

It's spring, which means the Ferris Sports Careers registered student organization (RSO) is hard at work, helping improve the lives of special athletes around the Big Rapids community.

The Sports Careers RSO has teamed up with a pair of classes in the sports communication program and a few Ferris athletic teams to coordinate a trio of events in the upcoming week.

The events are centered around raising funds for Area 5 Special Olympics and the 69 special athletes it services in Osceola and Mecosta counties, while also developing relationships with all the athletes involved.

"It's really cool to develop those relationships throughout the years. It's really rewarding to see that you're doing something that is having a positive impact," Sports Careers RSO President and Ferris senior Sean Williams said.

The fun will begin on Thursday, April 12, at the Student Recreation Center when the Ferris hockey team squares off against the Special Olympics poly hockey team in an exhibition matchup at 7 p.m.

It will mark the first ever Special Olympics Poly Hockey Showcase in Ferris history. The event is free to the public but donations are welcomed, while select memorabilia will be auctioned off in a silent auction throughout the night. All proceeds will benefit Area 5.

"It's the first time we're actually making it an event. They've scrimmaged in the past but we've never really told the public about it, so this is the first ever

one," Sports Careers Special Olympics coordinator and sports communication senior Megan Jean said. "We're just trying to get it spread through campus and get as many people there as possible."

The Sports Careers RSO will continue the week with a fundraiser on Saturday, April 14, at the Ferris softball games when the Bulldogs host the Grand Valley Lakers in a doubleheader beginning at 2 p.m.

The 13th annual Heart to Heart Basketball game will help cap off the trio of events on Tuesday, April 19, when the men's and women's basketball teams will pair up with special athletes in a friendly matchup.

The game will be played between two teams comprised of a mixture of players from both the men's and women's teams and the special athletes.

"They look forward to the Special Olympics basketball game every year," Jean said. "They've told me personally that it makes their day and makes their year and they've looked forward to this day all year long."

The 2017 game helped raise \$2,500 and Jean and company have hopes that this year's donations will double in number.

Jean has been working close with those with special needs since high school and has built lasting relationships in her time at Ferris through events like these.

"It means the world to me. They've always had a special place in my heart. I want to make sure I can give them the same opportunity that any other person can have," Jean said. "I know I can speak for everyone that it just warms our hearts to see the smiles on their faces."



Special Olympics

Graphic by: Sarah Massev | Production Manager

Brutus vs. Goliath

Duke Blue Devils will host Ferris men's basketball team in 2018-19 season



Graphic by: Sarah Massey | Production Manager

Jacob Carlson
Torch Reporter

The Ferris men's basketball team has been invited to square off against Division I powerhouse Duke University in October 2018 in Durham, N.C.

The game is just one of the many pleasures of being National Champions as this marks the 10th year in a row where the Blue Devils will battle with the defending Division II national champions at the historic Cameron Indoor Stadium.

"To be able to go and watch a game at Duke is special, so to be able to actually play a real game there is unbelievable in that type of environment," Ferris freshman Jaylin McFadden said.

This isn't the first Division I rodeo for the Bulldogs, as Ferris teams have had some looks against top level competition in recent years including a battle with Michigan State in East Lansing in October 2017.

The Bulldogs led that game at halftime and fought right down to the very end, before ultimately falling to the Spartans 80-72. Not too bad considering the Spartans went into the matchup ranked No. 2 overall in Division I.

Duke will be another opportunity for the Bulldogs to go toe-to-toe with a big-time program, while building a brand recognized around the nation.

"Playing any Division I team that is doing good things helps put Ferris on the map, especially a school like Duke," McFadden said.

The Blue Devils finished with an impressive 29-8 record on the season before falling to Kansas University in the Division I Elite Eight.

Meanwhile, the Bulldogs are coming off a historic 38-1 season that saw the team capture the GLIAC tournament for the fourth straight year and bring home the school's first ever national championship.

The details of the matchup are yet to be set but the game is scheduled to be played on a Friday night in late October 2018.



Jaylin McFadden

Swinging for the fences

Ferris softball looks for success

Jessica Brown
Interim Reporter

The Ferris softball team may have gotten off to a slow start this season but that isn't shaking their confidence.

"I think we're doing a really good job of coming together as a team," Ferris sophomore first baseman Sarah Meredith said. "I think we just need to be more aggressive at the plate and start swinging."

The Bulldogs are coming off a couple tough losses to both Northwood and Saginaw Valley and are currently on a five-game losing streak but according to first year head coach, Kristin Janes, the competition is exactly what they want.

"The tougher the competition you play early on, the better you're going to set yourself up for the rest of the season," Janes said.



Kristin Janes

"The GLIAC is one of the best in the country as far as Division II softball. If you're going to be the best, you've got to play the best, so that's why I think it's great for us to be a part of this conference and have the competition that we do."

The Michigan weather has thrown a curveball at the Ferris softball's upcoming schedule.

The Bulldogs' home game against Wayne State on Saturday, April 7, was rescheduled for 3 p.m. Friday, April 20, in Big Rapids.

Additionally, the Bulldogs were set to face Tiffin on Sunday, April 8, on their home field, however, that game was moved to the Dragon's home field in Ohio. With the change, the Bulldogs will now host the Dragons on Monday, April 23, at Ferris.

Although these changes set the Bulldogs back, they hope to gain momentum as the season continues.

With a current record of 7-20, the Bulldogs have positive hopes for the future of their season.

"This program has a huge tradition of winning and that's the expectation that we have going forward," Janes said. "So for the rest of this season, our goal is to be extremely competitive and to climb the GLIAC standings as we go. That's something we are very capable of doing and doing quickly."

The Bulldogs will be back in action at 2:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 11, when they take on the Grand Rapids Davenport University Panthers at the Ferris softball field.



Sarah Meredith



Photo by: Sam Cavotta | Torch Photographer

Ferris senior pitcher Sam Bates prepares to launch a ball into the strike-zone. The Bulldogs have gotten off to a bit of a rough start, starting the season 7-20.

Fresh feet



Photo by: Keith Salowich | Web Supervisor

The traditional gun is fired to signal the start of races at a track meet for Ferris. The Bulldogs just recently started their outdoor season.

Ferris men's and women's track & field teams begin outdoor season

Danny Collins
Torch Reporter

The Ferris men's and women's track & field teams began their outdoor season at the Eastern Illinois Big Blue Classic in Charleston, March 30 and 31.

The teams competed hard in Charleston, which included competition from a variety of Division I schools such as Western Michigan, Eastern Illinois University, Olivet Nazarene University and Illinois State University.

Bulldog junior Jordan Lee finished in fifth place in the women's 3,000-meter steeplechase with a time of 12:11.75 and sophomore Katie Etelamaki placed sixth in the women's 5,000-meter finishing with a time of 17:36.65.

The team also placed in the top 10 twice in the women's 800 meter. Freshman Carissa Schurr placed ninth with a time of 2:21.09 and freshman Sydney Dawes finished in 10th with 2:21.91.

The women also demonstrated their skills in the 4x800-meter relay with a total time of 9:33.00 as Dawes, Schurr, sophomore Jennifer Eaton and Etelamaki finished second overall.



Kelly Babcock

"Outdoor has been a great reflection of the work we put in all winter. We've had some PRs these first two meets last weekend at Eastern Illinois and this weekend at MSU and that's always encouraging heading into April," Ferris senior Kelly Babcock said.

Both teams this season have had to practice and compete in very harsh Michigan conditions these past few weeks and has made it difficult to get good quality work in.

In a very windy, snowy environment the women continued to compete Saturday, April 7, in East Lansing at the Spartan Invite. Despite the weather, the team competed hard and put up many personal records.

Bulldog junior Sarah Utchel finished in second place in the women's 200 meters with a time of 26.75 and third in the women's 100 meters with 12.76. Bulldog freshman Britney Sheridan finished fourth in the women's 400 meters with 1:02.16 and Bulldog sophomore Salix Sampson finished in fifth with 1:02.22.

"This weekend went well considering the conditions everyone went out and performed even with the tough weather. We are all hoping that Mother Nature cooper-

ates with us for the weekends to come," Ferris sophomore Kensington Garvey said.

In Eastern Illinois, on the men's side, Ferris junior Zach Mckenzie was runner-up in the 3,000-meter steeplechase with a time of 10:09.38. Ferris sophomore Stanley Williams finished in second in the long jump with a distance of 7.02 meters.

Bulldog senior Ross Miller also placed fourth in the hammer throw with 51.93 meters. The team would also take third place in the 4x800-meter relay with a time of 8:15.48 with a squad composed of John Alberts, Mark Jacobs, Ethan Israels and Dylan Hearn.

"I believe the team has prepared well for this year's outdoor season. These past few weeks have been

a battle against the elements on some key workout run days but the guys pushed through and got quality workouts in," Ferris senior Trevor Holowaty said. "The team is starting to get acclimated to racing on the 400-meter track after indoor and the rust is starting to shake off so everyone is excited to get going on looking forward to quicker times."

For both teams it appears the season will get substantially better once the weather starts to ease out of cold months.

"It is nice to be able to get outside and race despite the weather still being a little cold. We are looking forward to warmer weather and faster races," Ferris junior Zach Mckenzie said.

In East Lansing last weekend, Mckenzie finished fifth in the men's 5000 meters with a time of 15:57.77. Hearn finished in sixth place in the men's 800 meters with 2:04.83 and Alberts placed seventh with 2:08.05.

"I think the season will go well overall. Some small things we've done through indoor and weeks leading up to outdoor and the base training and workouts will transfer well and the races will start coming together hopefully next weekend," Ferris junior Damien Halverson said.

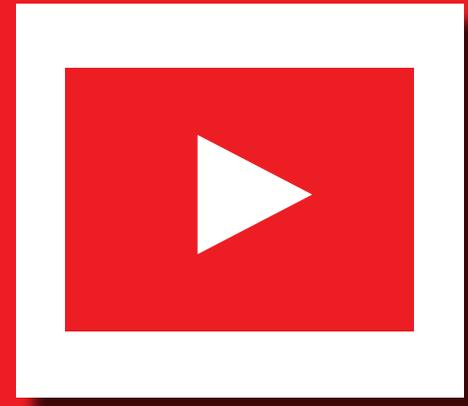
Both teams will be back in action as they compete at the Bison Classic Saturday, April 14, in Lewisburg, Pennsylvania.



Trevor Holowaty



Damien Halverson



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OPINIONS

“No matter how polluted you are, there’s never an excuse to be a trash person.”
- Jordan Johnigan - See page 15 for story

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Chat with the chief

Editor-in-Chief, Angela Graf

As a member of the media, I tend to be especially sensitive to censorship.

Following that vein, I am sick and tired of Ferris bringing artists to campus that have ridiculous rules about photography and media coverage.

You would not believe the hoops we have to jump through for mere photos of certain campus events and even then, we’re told we can’t publish them until they’re

“approved,” which, for the record, at a public university is a huge first amendment violation.

While it is easy as a reader to look at the work we put out week after week and pick apart a spelling mistake here, or a grammatical error there, we put a lot of time and effort into a thorough editing process, and I know for a fact how much my staff cares about the work they’re doing.

Sometimes things are left out

Shove your censorship

because they aren’t relevant, or we can’t verify them or to safeguard the privacy of the people involved but nothing is more frustrating than when they’re left out because of a lack of access.

There are figures on this campus, and even in the larger political scape, that think of journalists as mere annoyances, as bugs to squash, or ignore until they go away.

But I have to ask, if you don’t

have anything to hide, what’s the problem with transparency? Are you so insecure about your social media presence and appearances that you have to preview every photo from a concert that might be published?

I clearly can’t speak for every journalist out there but let me say this: we are not all bloodthirsty parasites looking to exploit the privacy of others for a decent headline and we will not be squashed.

From roommates to brothers

Living in a house full of men isn’t always a bad thing



Samantha Cavotta
Photographer

Some people have passionate opinions about living situations, no doubt from their own experiences factoring into that. I know I live a little differently than some might expect.

I live in a four-bedroom apartment but sometimes life can get a bit interesting when you’re the only girl living with male roommates. The common reaction I get when I tell people is a combination between sympathy and confusion.

I personally love living with my male roommates and I have no issues with any of them. The benefit of my situation is that these men make great roommates. All three are great friends of mine, they clean up after themselves

and they are all, most importantly, understanding and supportive of my many quirks in life.

If you really think about it, being a girl in a male-dominated apartment is actually convenient. I never have to worry about a roommate borrowing my clothes without permission, there is never hair hamsters left in the shower and it is very easy to tell what clothing is mine when we do group laundry. Just because they are not women doesn’t mean that I can’t rely on them. Nowhere does it say that I can’t get life advice, even guy advice, from men.

I’d best describe my relationship with my roommates by saying that they are like my brothers. They feel the same way and treat me

like I am their little sister. For example, when we go to Meijer, they make sure that I don’t wonder off or get lost, when it’s icy outside they make sure that I don’t fall, they help me scrape the snow and ice off my car and they always make sure that I know I can call them for anything I need help with. I know that they would be there in heartbeat for me and I can’t tell you how reassuring it is to live with people like that. My roommates are fiercely protective, incredibly understanding and some of my best friends. I wouldn’t have it any other way.

Don’t let gender get in the way of making some of the best friends of your life in college. I don’t regret being the only female in my living situation and the men in my life are incredible. If you’re comfortable, I would recommend trying to find roommates in college that you can grow with over time and rely on. It might sound like a dream but you can have your cake and eat it too.



Cartoon by: Samuel McNeill | Cartoonist

GOT AN OPINION?

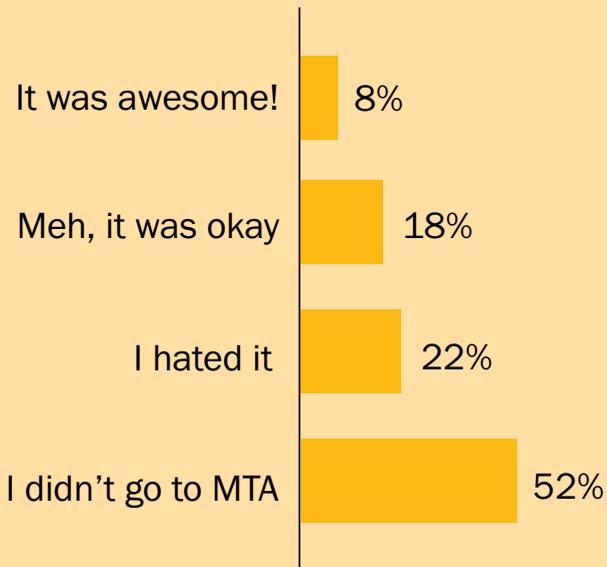
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Angela Graf | Editor-in-Chief | Email: graf1@ferris.edu

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 the editor for a chance to have your work published in our next issue!

TORCH POLL RESULTS

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What now?

I'm not sure what my future holds

The past is constantly looking over my shoulder as I flirt with the future. As someone who had a 10-year plan when she was 12 years old, you can imagine the stress that I am under now that my old plans have been blasted to smithereens.

Growing up, I always dreamed of being a doctor. I was fascinated by medicine and wanted to find the cure for Lou Gehrig's disease—a progressive nervous system disease that weakens muscles and impacts physical function. I worked my butt off to get good grades to work towards attending my dream college.

Becoming chronically ill was the fire that lit the dynamite. My plans fell apart and it took me a long time to recognize that you can't plan for every contingency.

After spending countless hours in doctor's waiting rooms, I hate hospitals now. Medicine is interesting until you present as your own medical mystery.

Once I entered high school, I tried finding my way and learning about things that interested me. I like to digest as many subjects as possible in my free time. As someone who is extremely competitive, I wanted to be the best at whatever I set my sights on.

I eventually decided to run with what I'm good at—public speaking and writing. I didn't know what to do once I started at Ferris. I dual enrolled at Washtenaw Community College to save money in high school



Marley Tucker
Opinions Editor

and that shortened my window at figuring out what to do with my degree. It's working out for me so far.

As soon as I set foot on campus, I felt like a timer was following me around like an unorthodox Grim Reaper. Just like the stereotypical multicultural kids laughing at an imaginary joke on college pamphlets, I wanted to find a place where I belonged. I found it here at Ferris and soon I'll have to say goodbye.

That timer is about to go off and I'm not looking forward to the frayed nerves and sleepless nights guaranteed to be in my near future. Walking in graduation will be an amazing experience I'll get to have with my family and friends but I'm not immune to the void of what happens afterwards. I don't know how grad school will pan out or who I'll keep in contact with or if my field is even hiring.

Fingers crossed that the future will be kind to me as I navigate adulthood. I've learned to loosen my grip on expectations and it's time to retire my 10-year plan. I don't know what will happen but I'll have a degree at the end of it all to pair with the memories I've made as a Bulldog.

Long distance



Rebecca Bostic
Copy Editor

I didn't think I knew pain
I thought I was tougher than life
I refused to cry and refused to die
I only wanted to know happiness

I thought I was tougher than life
Until eight soft paws climbed onto my bed
I only wanted to know happiness
It almost worked

Until eight soft paws climbed onto my bed
Three pairs of arms offered me a safe haven
It almost worked
But then I caved in

Three pairs of arms offered me a safe haven
I refused to cry and refused to die
But then I caved in
I didn't think I knew pain

Puzzle pieces

Remembering a blackout

A friendship groomed through years of interaction can crumble just as quickly as it was fostered over a semester. Drunk words are often sober thoughts and a slew of slurred sentences can leave a relationship dead in the water.

Few things are more cringe-worthy than waking up to pages of forgotten texts, aside from hammered tweets. Those 3 a.m. calls were thankfully missed but you may never know the content of those auto-pilot Snapchats you sent. Getting your life back in order after a hard blackout can be challenging, especially when you're off the sauce the next morning.

The hangover might not have hit yet but let's be real—it's 11 a.m. and you're sloshed. Water, breakfast, a quick workout and shower can set you up for success, leaving you better equipped to beat the impending doom of the afternoon comedown.

Soon subsiding will be the pounding headache and acid reflux but the regret only grows as the list of drunken mistakes unfold. Piecing the night together in a puzzle of bad decisions is hard but if you hope to salvage any bit of decency, some light detective work is needed.

You might remember pregaming with the squad and meeting friends from class at the party but after that and the five o'clock shots they gave you, it gets hazy. Snippets of your adventures throughout Big Rapids may become more vivid after recapping with your friends.

A firsthand tale of you expelling the demons off the front porch, Snaps depicting your stumbling mess and the Taco Bell



Jordan Johnigan
Torch Reporter

wrappers surrounding you and the couch you passed out on create a timeline of recklessness.

If you're looking to limit your buffoonery and still want to have a night out with friends, there are some methods of risk reduction you can take.

Bottle popping gets you to the intended destination quick but I always seem to take a detour somewhere along the way and wind up piss-wasted, rambling utter nonsense. Beer keeps you at a steadier pace as the night unfolds.

When I do drink liquor, I chase my vodka with water—it's the move. The training for intervention procedures course (TIPS) I took with my registered student organization stated that mixing pop and liquor slows down the absorption of alcohol, making you more drunk.

No matter how polluted you are, there's never an excuse for being a trash person. Friendships are shredded in seconds from drunken mistakes but they can be mended through the right reparations. Take care of yourself and if you make mistakes, don't leave them in the dark.

The universe has a funny way of working out and the people that are meant to be in your world will stick around if you make it right because real ones always hold it down.

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