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HERE'S WHAT'S INSIDE

DIGITAL PRIVACY

Get web supervisor Keith Salowich's perspective on the current digital privacy issues surrounding Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg.

OPINIONS | PAGE 14

SPRING FEVER

Ferris Football is back in action for their annual Crimson & Gold Spring game this Friday. Get the full story on that game.

SPORTS | PAGE 10

Groundwater politics



Photo by: Kaitlyn Kirchner | Torch Photographer

Nestlé is set to withdraw up to 400 gallons of water per minute from a well near Evert as soon as the state approves a monitoring plan.

Nestlé's permit is approved to pump 400 gallons per minute

Marley Tucker
Opinions Editor

The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) recently granted a permit allowing Nestlé Waters North America to increase the amount of groundwater it pumps from a well in Osceola Township.

Nestlé currently has 50 water bottling plants across Michigan and pumps an average of 250 gallons per minute from the well in Osceola.

According to a Bloomberg News report published last year, Nestlé pays officials only \$200 for permission to take in groundwater.

"I truly feel that the pumping of groundwater for little money is not fair at all. If we

continue such processes for people to use our resources, we are going to use them so quick and so fast that Michigan will run out of water," Ferris applied speech communications junior Tyrell Austin said.

Nestlé's request to increase their groundwater intake prompted considerable backlash from locals across Michigan, with more than 80,000 people filing public comments to authorities, imploring them to reject the proposal, as opposed to 75 public comments in favor of the company. This included opposition from environmentalist groups such as the Michigan League of Conservation Voters, Michigan Citizens for Water Conservation and Clean Water Action.

The MDEQ said that the permit met the

requirements of the Michigan Safe Drinking Water Act.

"The scope and detail of the department's review of the Nestlé permit application represents the most extensive analysis of any water withdrawal in Michigan history," director of MDEQ C. Heidi Grether said. "We are hopeful that whether residents agree with the Nestlé permitting decision or not, they will acknowledge and respect the work that MDEQ staff did to thoroughly and conscientiously apply the law in reviewing the permit."

Last April, residents from Flint, Detroit and other Michigan communities came to Ferris' campus to voice their opinions regarding Nestlé's permit with the MDEQ.

Officials from Osceola Township and the county have also tried to fight Nestlé by rejecting a zoning permit but the company appealed and won the ruling last year.

"The State's decision to allow Nestlé to continue their aggressive water removal in Michigan is a perfect example of our country's shift from green policies to industrial growth," Ferris political science senior Melissa Fairchild said. "It's a step backwards, in my opinion. The future is made now and there won't be a future if we ignore the way we treat the environment."

After the State approves a monitoring plan that Nestlé is required to submit, the company can start withdrawing up to 400 gallons per minute from a well near Evert.

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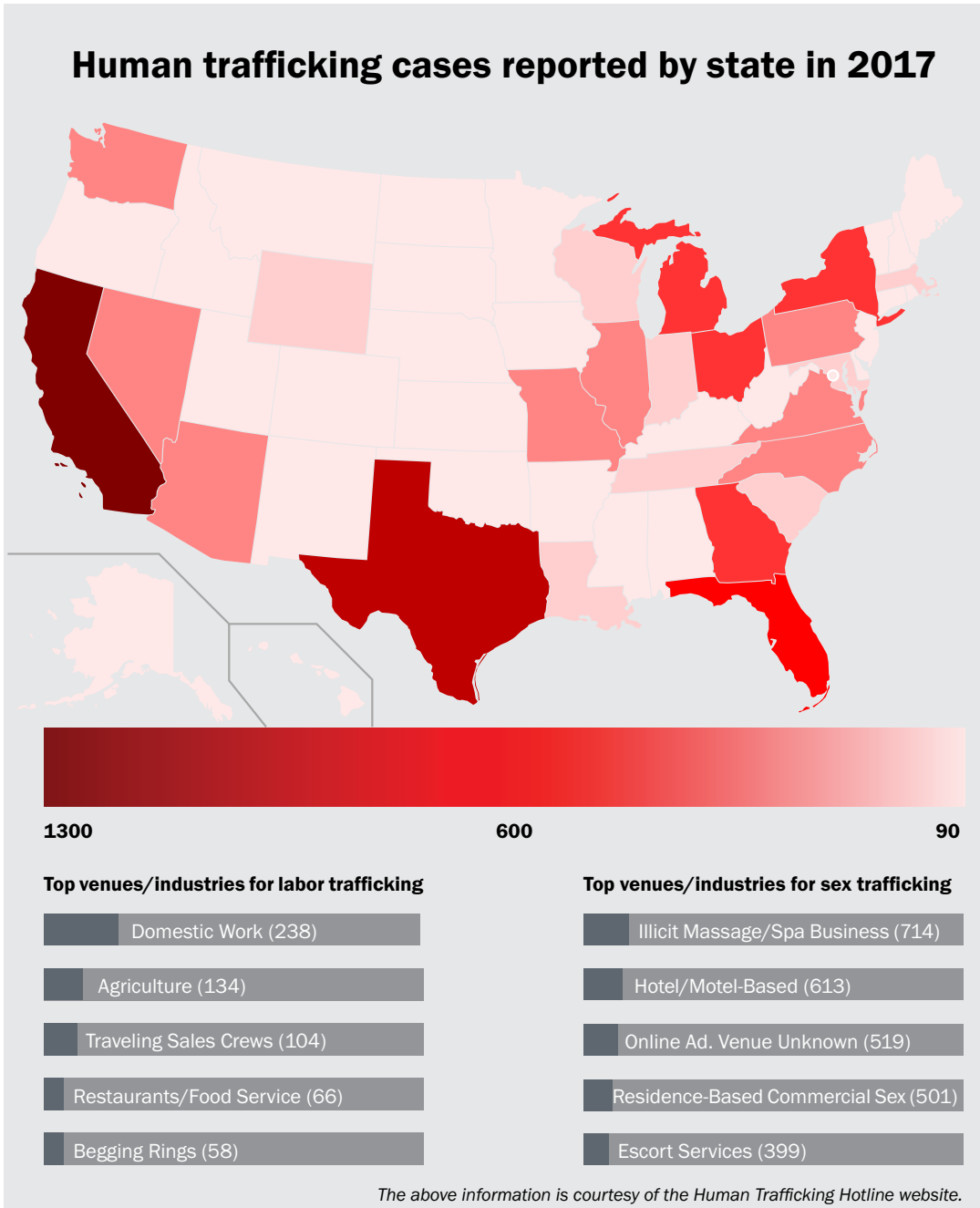
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NEWS

"While we do not like to see so much talent and institutional memory leave all at one time, we will have to reduce positions to achieve the necessary budget reductions."
- Jerry Scoby - See page 4 for story

Harley Harrison | News Editor | harrih12@ferris.edu

Exploitation and manipulation



Statistics show a rise in human trafficking

Cora Hall
Torch Reporter

It's happening in the U.S. It's happening in our community.

Human trafficking isn't just something that happens in a remote, developing country across the globe. In 2017 alone, there were 305 human trafficking cases reported in Michigan, which was more than double the 151 cases reported in 2015 and more than four times the cases reported in 2012, according to the National Human Trafficking Hotline website.



Savannah Christensen

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services website defines human trafficking as a modern-day slavery in which traffickers profit from controlling and exploiting others by force, fraud or coercion, with many victims forced to engage in commercial sex acts or solicit labor.

"I know a lot of people of all ages don't know about this and if they think they know about it, they don't know all the facts," Ferris hospitality management senior Savannah Christensen said. "They don't know it's happening in the United States, they don't know it's happening in West Michigan, they don't know it's happening in literally everyone's community."

Christensen was the Assistant Event Coordinator for the Inter-professional Conference on Human Trafficking Awareness (ICHTA) held on campus on Monday, April 10, and Tuesday, April 11. Ferris Hospitality Management faculty and ICHTA coordinator Karyn Kiio said the event was a volunteer effort and it had personal impacts for her.

"It's a grooming process as well that happens and it's finding insecurities," Kiio said. "A trafficker finds insecurities that are cracks in the wall where they can get into the psyches of these women and men and children and break them apart and be the ear that they never had, be the place they never had to live, be the person who loves them. So we need to make people aware that this issue is bigger and deeper than they think. They think they know what this crime is—they are only scratching the surface usually."



Karyn Kiio

8,524 cases of human trafficking were reported nationally in 2017, compared to the 3,272 in 2012. In 2017, Michigan had the sixth highest number of cases reported nationally.

Fresh leadership

A new era begins with newly elected president

Cora Hall
Torch Reporter

It's never been done before but as the saying goes, age is but a number.

It was announced on Tuesday, April 17, that Ferris accounting and finance freshman Bobby Gill won the presidency of the Student Government Association (SGA). Gill is the first freshman to be elected to the position. Ferris business administration and SGA parliamentarian Joe Rockwell said that it's a responsibility Gill will handle well.



Joe Rockwell

"I don't really think age has anything to do with it. I think it's cool that he's in that position," Rockwell said. "In college, when you're dedicated and motivated, it doesn't matter how old you are. People will respect you."

Gill said Ferris was originally a one-year stop for him but after that year, he loved campus life.

"I came here and I started falling in love with the campus and I just realized how great of a place this was with all the registered student organizations, all the people. Everything connected and I like this place and I'm probably going to come here

for the rest of my college career," Gill said.

After serving as a senator for the College of Business in SGA for the 2017-18 school year, Gill's motivation and dedication were not lost on other SGA members. Rockwell said Gill is one of the most dedicated members SGA has and he is very passionate about the presidency.

"Bobby is very ambitious. He is very eager to make things happen and has a strong drive to get things done," Ferris political science freshman and SGA representative Allyson Faulkner said. "His outgoing personality and determined mindset can sometimes turn people away because he is so much to handle and very out there. But I think once people put their trust in him, he will do amazing things."

One of Gill's goals as SGA resident is to simply make a difference, possibly through a school-wide effort to support philanthropy.

"I have a number of goals but my biggest thing is to make a difference. I don't really care how it happens but I want to change campus in some way—I want to make people want to be more involved," Gill said.



Allyson Faulkner



Photo by: Megell Strayhorn | Torch Photographer

Ferris accounting and finance freshman Bobby Gill is the new SGA President.

WEEKLY WORLD NEWS

Catch up on news around the globe

Harley Harrison
News Editor

Algiers, Algeria

257 soldiers and civilians were killed after a military transport plane crashed into a field before exploding into flames. While there were a few survivors, the cause of the crash is still unknown. Algeria's Defense Ministry has opened an investigation.

Original story by Declan Walsh, April 11, 2018. *The New York Times*.

São Paulo, Brazil

20 people are dead and at least four injured after gunmen attacked a prison during a mass escape of inmates. The conflict resulted in a shootout between the police and the gunmen, which left 19 of the prisoners and their supporters and one guard dead. Officials believe there aren't any missing prisoners.

Original story by the Associated Press, April 10, 2018. *The New York Times*.

Damascus, Syria

More than 133,000 civilians have fled Damascus, a suburb of the capital, due to the government's military attack. The United Nations refugee agency has reported that the evacuation was in response to the suspected chemical attack. The region has been under civil war for seven years and Syria has been expected to use chemical weapons against its own people.

Original story by Nick Cumming-Bruce, April 10, 2018. *The New York Times*.

Perth, Australia

A video has surfaced showing thousands of sheep dying from heat stress on board a ship traveling from Australia to the Middle East. While the video was taken in summer of 2017, it recently gained viral popularity, which has prompted the Australian government to investigate the mistreatment of animals. It was reported that more than 2,400 sheep died of heat stress in their own feces.

Original story by Brendan Foster, April 8, 2018. *The New York Times*.

- ON THE RECORD -

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

A rough lap around the track

Harley Harrison
News Editor

Detention is served

April 5, 6:23 p.m., officers assisted staff with a controlled substance and narcotics equipment violation in Bond Hall. One subject was arrested and two were referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

Back at it again

April 5, 9:15 p.m., officers investigated a controlled substance violation in Lot 3. One suspect was arrested and referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

Trouble up North

April 7, 2:07 a.m., officers assisted staff with a report of assault and battery and obstruction of justice in North Hall. One subject was arrested and referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

C'mon, guys...

April 8, 1:05 a.m., officers assisted staff with a controlled substance violation in Vandercook Hall. Three suspects were arrested and one student was referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

A rough lap around the track

April 11, 5:20 p.m., officers investigated a report of larceny in the Student Recreation Center. The investigation is still open.

NEWS BRIEFS

Harley Harrison
News Editor

Second Chance Prom

Attend the Second Chance Prom Friday, April 20, from 8 to 11 p.m. in the University Center Ballroom 202A. Advanced tickets are \$10 for Ferris students and \$15 for non-Ferris students, while tickets at the door will be \$5 more. All proceeds will go to the LGBTQ+ Resource Center. For more information, contact Connor McGahan at mcgahan@ferris.edu.

That 80s party

Join the Center for Leadership Activities and Career Services (CLACS) Saturday, April 21, from 7 to 10 p.m. in the main basketball courts of the Student Recreation Center. DJ Bob Aldrich will be playing and there will be prizes, including Taylor Swift concert tickets. For more information, call CLACS at (231) 591-2685.

Shakespeare festival

Celebrate Shakespeare's birthday in the North Quad Tuesday, April 24, from 11 a.m. to noon. There will be cupcakes, costumes and giveaways. For more information, contact Dr. Heather Pavletic at Heather-Pavletic@ferris.edu.

A look at Cook

DPS Assistant Director retires

Megan Lewton
Torch Reporter

Captain Jim Cook, the assistant director at Ferris Department of Public Safety (DPS), is about to go on a golf trip but he fears the emotions he'll feel when he returns.

"I can only imagine, after I get back from my golf trip, that next week, what it's going to feel like because I'm not going to work. I worked full-time for 40 years and I worked part-time for four years before that. To not go to a job, I'm sure will be very difficult," Cook said.

Friday, April 13, was Cook's last day with Ferris DPS as he is headed into retirement. Cook has worked with Ferris DPS for 28 years, beginning in 1990 as a road patrol officer and receiving a series of promotions before becoming assistant director in 2004.

A lifelong resident of Big Rapids, Cook graduated from Ferris with a criminal justice degree in 1980. He worked at the Mecosta County Sheriff's Department before transitioning to Ferris' DPS. Cook said he enjoyed working with students and gaining their respect.

"You're constantly meeting new people and new challenges, getting people to understand that even though I'm a police officer, you don't know who I am because you just met me and I don't know you, obviously. It's gaining the respect of people that, at first, may not want to give it to you just because of prior bad experiences they've had with police. That's been real rewarding," Cook said.

In his spare time, Cook enjoys bowling and playing trombone in the Ferris Alumni Jazz Band. He is also



Courtesy photo

Ferris Captain Jim Cook retired from the Department of Public Safety after 28 years.

active in his church and volunteers with the Special Olympics.

"I very much have appreciated the opportunities that I had here at the university and I look forward to the next chapter in my life," Cook said.

Cook hopes to spend his retirement traveling and visiting family.

"We're gonna travel more, now that I don't have to wait for vacation days to be able to do that. Taking care of family—that's what I want to do," Cook said.

Torch Corrections

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Addressing access



Photo by: Megell Strayhorn | Torch Photographer

An audit conducted by Ferris seniors on six buildings shows some services are not up to date with Americans with Disabilities Act Standards.

Accessibility audit finds flaws on campus

Grant Siddall
Torch Reporter

An audit done by Ferris seniors show many areas of campus are not up to the accessibility standards of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

The audit, which was performed by nine facility management seniors, focused on six different buildings on Ferris' campus: Business, the Rock Café, Starr, Swan, Johnson Hall and the Ewigleben Sports Complex.

Ferris program coordinator and professor for the architecture and facility management program Diane Nagelkirk helped oversee the audit process and said that, of the six buildings, the biggest issues were with Business and Ewigleben.

"There are numerous level changes in Wink arena that need to be fixed. Ramps that have been installed to address these level changes are not in compliance with ADA. In addition, the lower level of Wink is not accessible via an interior elevator and exterior access to the lower level and non-compliant and potentially dangerous," Nagelkirk said. "Many of the Business building issues such as door knobs could be easily and quickly fixed but the auditorium presents limitations for access and would be a major cost to renovate—but we feel it is very necessary and should be high on the list."

Issues ranged from doors being too hard to open to problems with the slopes of ramps and wheelchair accessibility. In Ewigleben, access to goods and services did not meet ADA standards in 26 percent of the areas examined. In Business, 31 percent of

areas examined for approach and entrance failed to meet ADA standards. For the additional access to the building, there was a 64 percent fail rate.

"To find out some entrances only have one of the three qualifications to pass for ADA standards blew me away," Ferris business administrations sophomore Spencer Sucharski said. "I think Ferris should get the entrances up to standards. I mean, if they can only audit six out of the 90 buildings, they can at least start somewhere."

While there is no certainty that this audit will cause Ferris to update areas that didn't meet code, Nagelkirk is hopeful it will influence change.

"We would hope to see those changes made in the near future. More complex problems will likely occur in years to come in that they require more time in terms of planning and resources," Nagelkirk said.

Some of the more minor and easily fixable issues include signs with poor contrast and that lack braille. More major issues, like wheelchair accessibility in the Business auditorium, which has no ramp to allow for movement throughout the room, could mean major renovations.

One proposal for Ewigleben includes removing doors and even sections of walls to create new entrances. Overall, proposed changes to the sports arena alone totaled more than \$57,000.

As of now, despite only a small fraction of Ferris' buildings being audited, there are no plans for additional audits. However, Nagelkirk said that this is something they would consider doing again in the future.

Reading between the lines

Issues with Ferris retirement incentive

Megan Lewton
Torch Reporter

A retirement incentive proposed by Ferris administration caused negative reactions among many faculty members.

The Ferris Board of Trustees released the Early Retirement Incentive Plan (ERIP) Monday, Feb. 26. According to the Ferris Division of Administration and Finance Vice President Jerry Scoby, the goal of the plan is to reduce the number of paid employees as a way of adjusting to recent budget cuts.

"While we do not like to see so much talent and institutional memory leave all at one time, we will have to reduce positions to achieve the necessary budget reductions. The voluntary ERIP was put in place to create vacancies that can be eliminated to help balance our budgets. The number of vacancies that normally occur each year and had already been announced by employees is not enough to achieve the required budget reductions," Scoby said.

For those who applied and were accepted between the plan's announcement and its closure

March 26, the ERIP offered a retiring employee either \$10,000 or 2 percent of the employee's salary multiplied by the number of years the employee has been at Ferris—whichever is greater. The ERIP also provides a full year of insurance.



Charles Bacon

While this may seem like a positive incentive, many faculty members disagree.

According to Ferris physical science professor and Ferris Faculty Association (FFA) President Charles Bacon, current faculty contracts offer a retirement buyout with similar benefits.

"We have a provision in our contract for a buyout. The University has already agreed to that," Bacon said. "That provision is what we feel should be honored. Obviously, the ERIP is an attempt by the University to get people out cheaper."

Bacon said that, in the contracts of the 450 FFA members, a buyout of a full year's salary and a full year of insurance is offered and faculty have the option to receive the payment either in lump sum or in installments over 20 or 26 pay periods. On the other hand, the ERIP only offers a lump sum payment, which would give faculty "a very high tax bite," according to Bacon.

Another issue regarding the ERIP is that it is not available to anyone who applied for retirement prior to Feb. 26.

"We have a clause in our contract that says you have to notify the administration of your intent to retire seven months before," Bacon said. "So faculty that were going to retire this May followed the rules. Then, the end of February, they announce this incentive plan. Those people who followed the rules and applied for retirement get nothing. You can imagine they weren't happy."

Scoby said this is because the plan intends to get more people to apply for retiring.

"Individuals who had already informed the University that they were going to retire or take a job elsewhere were not eligible. It is important to keep in mind that the purpose of the program is to create additional vacancies, beyond those already announced, to eliminate as part of the budget reduction process," Scoby said.

According to Scoby, the ERIP is expected to be a one-time offer that will not be repeated in the future.

Big Event put on ice

Cancellation due to winter weather

Grant Siddall
Torch Reporter

Rather than trading in their rakes for snow shovels, event coordinators decided to cancel this year's Big Event.

Weather forecasts calling for freezing rain and up to one inch of ice on the roads caused planners to cancel the Big Event for the first time since it began 11 years ago. In 2013, the event was rescheduled.

According to the 2018 Big Event director, Bryanna Harlan, rescheduling the event in 2013 led to many issues, which factored into this year's event not being rescheduled. In 2013, volunteer numbers dropped significantly for the rescheduled date, which led to many homes that had signed up for help being canceled.

"Our waivers are only good for the day of, as well as our risk forms for the homeowners. So we would have to get both of those forms filled out within a week's time," Harlan said. "In order for us to get all of that moved over to the following weekend—which would be the only weekend available—it would take more than a week to do. Also, we had to cancel our catering for the day of by Thursday, so trying to work out a reschedule with them would be a nightmare."

With about 1,100 volunteers signed up to work at about 300 houses, the cancellation undoubtedly had an impact on a lot of people in the community.

"I think the cancellation was definitely disappointing for community members but considering that they all live in Michigan, they understand how wildly unpredictable weather can be. After seeing the conditions, I think the vast majority of community members ultimately understood that the conditions would have made the event miserable and unsafe," Ferris applied speech communication senior and Big Event volunteer Jenna Steele said.

This year's Big Event had a budget of around \$13,000 and canceling early allowed coordinators to save some of that money. Had the event been canceled on its scheduled date, coordinators would have been obligated to pay vendors. The planners also benefited by not putting the year on the shirts that were made for volunteers and they now plan



Graphic by: Abbey Good | Multimedia Editor

to use the shirts for next year.

"Overall, lack of participation from the students is one of the bigger reasons we decided not to reschedule. We can't make a difference in these community members' lives without our volunteers' help. We received emails from more than 20 RSOs and countless phone calls asking if we are cancel-

ing on the Big Event back on Thursday when it was 60 degrees. Just seeing those emails made us think maybe they just really don't want to do it," Harlan said. "Getting students to come out is hard but we try our best. We really try hard not to be the 'Big Obligation.'"



Lip sync battle

Ferris a cappella RSO, Vibrato Vibes, performed Friday, April 13, before a lip sync battle.

Photo by: Megell Strayhorn | Torch Photographer

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LIFESTYLES

“There’s going to be a lot less social pressure because there’s no popularity contest of prom king and queen.”
- Emily Perry - See page 8 for story

Alicia Jaimes | Lifestyles Editor | jaimesa@ferris.edu



Meeting a milestone

Finding a welcoming community

Briana Hammontree
Torch Reporter

It has been five years since the first opening of the Center for Latin@ Studies in the IRC and on Wednesday, April 11, in celebration of that milestone, the IRC was congratulating not only students but faculty for their success in the program thus far.

Ferris alum and executive director of CLS Kaylee Moreno was originally a student co-founder of the office.

“Latino students didn’t feel like they had a place to belong on campus or that we really had a space to find one another and connect, in that collectivistic cultural value students have intrinsically. We know that means a lot, so we wanted to create a counter space—which is what this office is—so that students can connect and tell their home stories, to speak Spanish and do that freely and to celebrate their culture,” Moreno said.

The anniversary represented many forms of Latin heritage, with music from Los Perros Cubanos, celebrating Cuba’s popular music from the 1940s and 50s, as well as Latin food. The event also featured testimonials from students on their journeys to attending Ferris.

Ferris construction management first year Rogelio Nino Vazquez has found the CLS office to be a home away from home.

“To me, the anniversary was special because it is a milestone for a place that has been home to many Latino students. Seeing that the center has been around for five years gives me hope that more and more students will be coming to Ferris thanks to some of the programs that the center offers, such as the Promesa Summer Success program,” Vazquez said.

CLS offers three programs to the community and stu-

dents. Promesa Avancemos and Promesa Summer Success help the community, with Promesa Avancemos focusing on growth among seventh and eighth graders, and Promesa Summer Success helping high school juniors and seniors prepare for college. The Promesa Scholars Program is a redeveloped program that was re-offered this year.

“We have students constantly in and out of our office, just trying to understand what are the right questions to be asking, who should



Kaylee Moreno

they be going to for these resources, how do they connect and understand what’s going on in the campus community so that they can be successful. So what we do and what the compass really represents is we try to help navigate those different spaces. We help students understand the language, the processes, the systems,” Moreno said.

Ferris nursing junior Angelica Ross was one of the students helping with the anniversary.

“The Center of Latin@ Studies was a place for me to go when I didn’t have anyone to talk to when I first got to Ferris. This organization has made me get out of my comfort zone and meet new people,” Ross said.

CENTER FOR LATIN@STUDIES

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Monday: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Tuesday — Thursday: 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.
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Contact Information: (231) 591.2470
Location: 1301 S. State Street, IRC 131, Big Rapids

A new place to call home

How a first-generation student found his place at Ferris

Briana Hammontree
Torch Reporter

Ferris social work freshman Juan Ramirez-Diaz Jr. initially came to Ferris unaware of what he was stepping into.

Ramirez-Diaz is a first-generation college student who set foot on campus with no knowledge of the Big Rapids community, Ferris’ campus or what he wanted to study.

While he struggled at first, Ramirez-Diaz soon found a sense of community in the Center of Latin@ Studies (CLS) and by his second semester, Ramirez-Diaz had enrolled into the social work program.

“I didn’t expect anything, so I wasn’t lost but I had to get used to it. But then I found the CLS and I made the friends that I had—I got more comfortable. It was a family away from home. Although we may not all come from the same country, we all have a Latino culture, so we get along and connect more like a family,” Ramirez-Diaz said.

CLS also offered Ramirez-Diaz a chance to learn about the Hispanic Student Organization (HSO), an RSO on campus that gives students the opportunity to work with the community and celebrate their culture.



Photo by: Abbey Good | Multimedia Editor

Ferris social work freshman Juan Ramirez-Diaz Jr. prefers to go by “Junior.”

HSO allowed Ramirez-Diaz to continue his interest in helping others, as the organization wrote Christmas cards to nursing homes and put on a quinceañera—a celebration for a girl’s 15th birthday.

“I was raised in a family where we try to help others no matter whether it is a small or big impact. I’ve seen my grandparents do that who are back in Mexico, from my mom and dad. So it’s just that type of feeling of knowing that I can be there for someone, which makes me feel happy and good, that I can help someone out,” Ramirez-Diaz said.

To stick to his roots, Ramirez-Diaz makes a point of speaking Spanish not only when

he goes home but on campus among his peers, often times also speaking Spanglish as well—a mixture of both Spanish and English.

Ramirez-Diaz is also a member of a band with his friends and brother back home, where they play Mexican music to honor his heritage. This has always been important to him, as he grew up with a father who was a musician in Mexico.

“I grew up listening to norteño, ranchera, regional Mexican and it is something that has always stuck with me. Also, I use music as an escape or stress reliever. I either listen to it or play it and it’s a way of letting everything out,” Ramirez-Diaz said.

¿Como se dice...?

Try your hand at some simple Spanish phrases

Hola, ¿cómo estás?: Hello, how are you?

Mi nombre es...: My name is...

No sé: I don’t know

Te amo: I love you

Necesito una siesta: I need a nap

Tengo hambre: I’m hungry

Tengo sed: I’m thirsty

No quiero hacer mi tarea: I don’t want to do my homework

Necesito dinero, por favor: I need money, please

Aching for art



Photo by: Abbey Good | Multimedia Editor

Appreciating the finer things in life

Holly Baker
Torch Reporter

Drawn to Art is an RSO that focuses on all different aspects of art, from music to film.

“An interesting thing about our group is we used to have only art history people in it but we’ve expanded to for anyone who’s interested in any type of art,” Ferris integrated studies senior Velvet Underwood said.

Underwood helped create Drawn to Art one year ago when she noticed the lack of an art-loving community on campus. With Underwood was Ferris history senior Alyssa Rosebrugh’s appreciation for art history. Their motivations helped create the welcoming organization Drawn to Art is today.

Along with an appreciation for art, Drawn to Art is event-centered and focuses on collaboration, community service and creativity.

To ensure each member’s creativity will continue to thrive during their time at Ferris, members of the art organization take trips to local galleries and events, and try to find ways to serve their community along the way.

“We had Festival of the Arts where we did three events and we also have been collaborating with ArtWorks downtown. We helped judge the current ArtWorks exhibit going on. We’re just trying to get involved on and off campus in some form of art,” Rosebrugh said.

Drawn to Art will be taking a trip to the Grand Rapids Art museum later in April for all members, along with a trip to ArtPrize in the 2018 fall semester.

“Joining the group helped me see art in a new way,” Ferris graphic media management junior Steven Andersen said.

Drawn to Art promotes creativity in all mediums by taking group trips throughout the year and welcoming all students.

ATTENTION ART LOVERS

Want to join Drawn to Art?

- Visit their OrgSync page at Drawn to Art
- Attend one of their meetings: every other Thursday in IRC 107 at 6:30 p.m.



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Cheers to second chances

An evening accessible to everyone

Katlin Merby
Torch Reporter

Students are going to have the opportunity to either relive their high school prom or create a memorable experience they've never had.

"Prom in high school can be challenging for many students in not just the LGBT community but also anyone that couldn't afford it or that might have sensory issues," Ferris social work senior Connor McGahan said.

This realization is what inspired McGahan and other members of the Advocacy and Education of Gender Identity and Sexuality (AEGIS) RSO to hold a Second Chance Prom. The RSO members were inspired to host this event from an annual conference they attend.

"My senior prom was amazing. I went with great people and the night was magical. I want everyone to be able to have that amazing night," McGahan said.

While McGahan's prom experience is something he wants to share with others, another member of AEGIS feels a bit differently about his prom experience.

"When I originally went to prom in high school, I had to wear a dress, as I still identified as a woman at the time and we had a rather restrictive dress code," Fer-

ris biology junior Scott Rogers said.

As a result, he did not enjoy himself as much as he could have, given that he felt uncomfortable in his outfit and was teased by friends for wearing flats instead of heels. Thanks to Second Chance Prom, Rogers gets the opportunity to feel happy and comfortable in a suit while attending the event with all of his friends.

"For many students with disabilities who are in the LGBTQ+ community or may be of a lower economic status, events like prom and homecoming aren't welcoming events, which can leave students with bad memories of what should have been a good time and a celebration of their success," Rogers said.

The goal of the Second Chance Prom is to provide an accepting environment where students can celebrate their individuality and replace bad experiences at school dances in the past.

"There's going to be a lot less social pressure because there's no popularity contest of prom king and queen," Ferris television and digital media productions freshman Emily Perry said.

At the prom, there will still be a chance to be royalty but this time it will be decided by a raffle. This will be Perry's third time attending a prom and she anticipates that this will be her favorite one.

"This event is open to everyone. Please come out and show your support. We will be having food and a good time. Who cares if you don't have a date? Come celebrate the end of the year with your friends," Rogers said.

SOME THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW...

-Tickets are available April 16-20 in the LGBT Resource Center in the CLACS office.

-Tickets are \$10 per FSU student and \$15 per non-FSU student throughout the week.

-Tickets will be sold for \$15 per FSU student and \$20 per non-FSU student at the door.

-Second Chance Prom will be held in UC 202.

-There is a sensory-friendly room in the Founder's Room.

TORCH CONFESSIONS

Prom

Torch staff members write about slightly embarrassing aspects of their lives because hey, we all have those.



Kat Merby
Torch Reporter

I was very heartbroken going into prom and even more heartbroken when I left.

They always show in the movies how romance can be re-kindled at high school proms. In real life, that is a joke. The group of people that I went to prom with was quite large: a few of my hooligan friends from history class, two of my best girlfriends, a few friends from orchestra and of course, my ex-boyfriend and his best friend.

To this day, I still think I have never looked better than I did on senior year prom night. I was looking so good that I was nervous that people would faint when they saw me, which made me very anxious.

The dinner was horrible, and we were at a fancy Italian restaurant and banquet hall. The music matched the monstrosity of the food. So sitting at the table was very awkward, very little conversation happened, other than insulting the food.

To my own dismay, I was

noticing that my ex was not looking or talking to me at all. When slow dance songs came on, my entire group would disperse immediately. We were by far the most awkward kids at my high school.

The worst part was that I had to drive my ex home. Him and I had discussed going to dance in the park where we first met. I was very excited for this during the entire time at the banquet hall. I pulled into the parking lot at the park and he seemed confused and I reminded him of the plan. He quickly pulled out his phone and acted like his mom had just frantically called him. He was horrible at faking this. He demanded that I drive him home immediately.

I was extremely embarrassed to say the least. Regardless, the best part of prom was seeing someone stall a 1970 Shelby Cobra Mustang in the parking lot at the banquet hall.

The look on that kid's face—utterly priceless.

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Finding your rhythm

Inspired by friends and family

Alicia Jaimes
Lifestyles Editor

Ferris advertising senior Adam Crookston has spent his time at Ferris exploring his creativity.

Dabbling in painting custom shoes, copy writing and videography, Crookston feels that his past experiences have led him to creating The Wave—his first art gallery.

Opening Tuesday, April 24, Crookston's The Wave was painted on 450 canvases that appear to be vinyl record—with a 500-piece goal.

"The Wave is about the ups and downs of life—sort of combining life with how sound waves work," Crookston said.

Crookston compared his gallery to how sound waves react and change depending on how various notes are struck. This idea was inspired when he discovered his friends and family were impacted with change around the same time a change of energy occurred on campus.

"I've heard or noticed a lot of people on campus here have been dealing with a lot or there have been some form of change in them, whether positive or negative," Crookston said. "It can be something simple like a change of hair color or something larger like a death in the family. All these things are a part of the cycle of life, we experience them at different stages but it's kind of like their song of their life has now changed—like if a musician changed what instruments were in a song."

Crookston has been working on The Wave since summer of 2017, finding his medium at Salvation Army or in mass quantities on Ebay.

"The colors originally came from album covers from the 60s, 70s and 80s that I saw on my Pandora station. I used as many colors as I could: primary, secondary—there are



Photo courtesy of Adam Crookston

Ferris advertising senior Adam Crookston has been working on his collection, The Wave, since summer of 2017.

some that can be used under black lights, others that are more metallic," Crookston said.

Never being one to show off, Crookston looks forward to putting his work out there and influencing the students who come to visit the gallery.

"I hope this helps get students, faculty, anyone to think about what's going on in their life," Crookston said. "Do they need to change their tune or how can they fix this rhythm they might be out of? Ultimately, I hope this entertains them. I like making people happy."

Crookston will be donating a portion of sales to the Boys and Girls Club of America.

Gallery Reception

Date: Friday, April 27

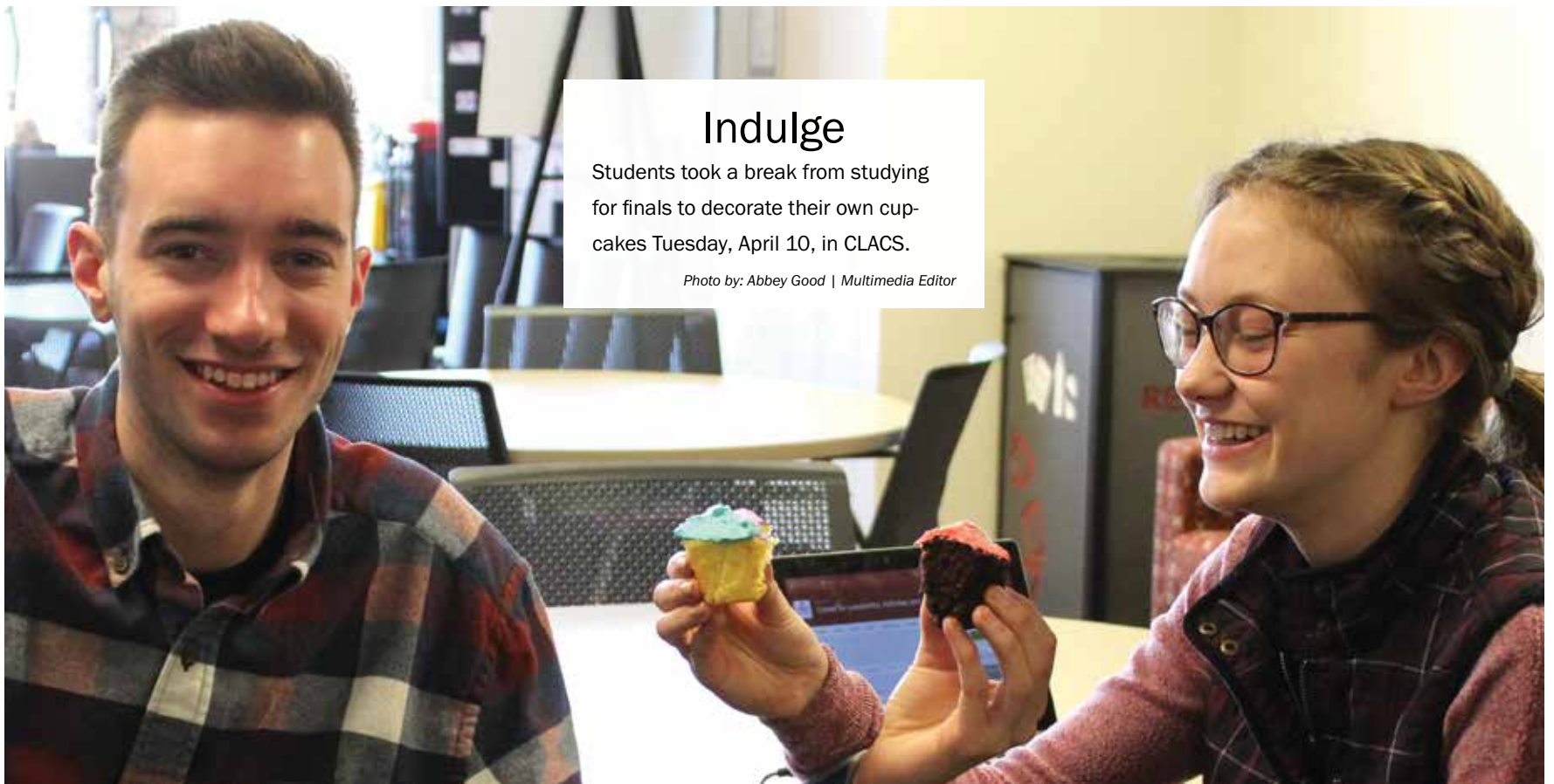
Time: 5-7 p.m.

Location: Fine Art Gallery, UCB 205

The Wave:

Date: Tuesday, April 24 – Friday, May 5

Location: Fine Art Gallery, UCB 205



Indulge

Students took a break from studying for finals to decorate their own cupcakes Tuesday, April 10, in CLACS.

Photo by: Abbey Good | Multimedia Editor



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2018 MAY COMMENCEMENT

**Friday, May 4, 2018 and
Saturday, May 5, 2018**

Ewingleben Sport Complex (Wink Arena)

College	Contact	Phone #	Location
Health Professions	Richelle Williams	(231) 591-2263	VFS 210
Arts & Sciences	Barb Hampel	(231) 591-3660	ASC 3052
Business (Undergrad Students on & off-campus)	Carri Griffis	(231) 591-2493	BUS 200
Business (Graduate Students)	Shannon Yost	(231) 591-2168	BUS 200E
Education & Human Services	Jennie Stange	(231) 591-2700	BIS 604
Engineering Technology	Deb Ducat	(231) 591-2961	JHN 200
Optometry	Michelle Aldrich	(231) 591-3700	MCO 236
Pharmacy	Tara Lee	(231) 591-2249	PHR 312
DCCL	Megan Biller	(231) 591-2710	ALU 113

Note: You must satisfy all of your degree requirements before you officially graduate and receive your diploma. **Caps and Gowns** may be purchased at the Grad Fair on March 22th, 11:00 am – 5:00pm in the University Center – Multi Purpose Rooms or starting March 22th - April 24, 2018 at the Ferris State University Bookstore (located in the University Center, 805 Campus Drive, Big Rapids MI 49307).

Tickets are required for all ceremonies. All students planning on participating in a ceremony will receive (6) six tickets. Electronic tickets will be available for students to reserve or print **starting March 22, 2018**. Extra tickets are not distributed and lost tickets will not be replaced. **Tickets must be reserved by Thursday, May 3, 2018 at 11:59 pm.**

Commencement Program – Graduates must complete their online graduation application by **Friday, February 23, 2018 for their names to appear in the Spring 2018 Commencement Programs** or their name will not appear in the Commencement Program. In order to have the program printed and back in time for the ceremonies we have to adhere to these deadlines. Contact your college's Commencement Coordinator if you have any questions.

Friday, May 4

Time	College
3:30 pm	College of Health Professions Michigan College of Optometry
7:00 pm	College of Arts & Sciences College of Pharmacy Doctorate in Community College Leadership

Saturday, May 5

Time	College
9:00 am	College of Education & Human Services
12:30 pm	College of Engineering Technology
4:00 pm	College of Business

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



SPORTS

"It's very difficult to move flawlessly from a rubber floor, to turf, to dirt."
- Paige Kortz - See page 13 for story

Brendan Samuels | Sports Editor | samuelb1@ferris.edu

Spring fever



Photo by: Keith Salowich | Web Supervisor

Junior wide receiver Malik Taylor takes off after hauling a pass against Northern Michigan. The Bulldogs are geared up to play their annual Crimson & Gold spring game at 5 p.m. Friday, April 20.

Ferris football prepares to take the turf

Jessica Brown
Interim Reporter

Ferris football will be back in action to hold their annual Crimson & Gold spring game on Friday, April 20, at Top Taggart Field with kickoff set for 5 p.m.

The Crimson & Gold game features a modified scoring and timing format, and will give fans a chance to watch the Bulldogs for the first time since their second consecutive run to the national quarterfinals last fall.

Additionally, the Bulldogs made their fourth straight trip to the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division II Playoffs and posted an 11-2 record, marking the first time in school history in which Ferris has won 11 or more games

in four straight seasons.

The Crimson & Gold game wraps up spring practice for the Bulldogs, which began on March 16.

An interesting question heading into Friday and next season is: who will claim the starting quarterback position?

With star quarterback Reggie Bell graduating, Head Coach Tony Annese will have to choose a successor. Travis Russell, a junior at the position, seems to be the likely candidate after a stellar performance under-center last season when Bell went down with an ankle injury.



Matt Capasso

Added to the mix is Jayru Campbell, a former 2015 three-star recruit who planned to play at Michigan State before a run-in with the law derailed his career at MSU. Campbell harbors great talent and after proving himself as a red-shirt last season, he is expected to see time on the field both under-center and out-wide catching passes.

"Spring ball is always an exciting time for us," Ferris junior tight end Matt Capas-

so said. "New guys step up and we all get a feel for what kind of team we are going to be in the fall. Although the weather hasn't been the best, we have been making the best out of it and seem to be getting better every day."

The Bulldogs will certainly need new guys to step up, as they are set to lose upwards of 20 players, including defensive end Zach Sieler and defensive back Tavierre Thomas, who have both declared for the 2018 National Football League Draft.



Malik Taylor

Nevertheless, the Bulldogs have their sights set high with their 110th season right around the corner.

"I'm expecting our team to win a National Championship," Ferris junior wide receiver Malik Taylor said. "I believe we have all the tools necessary to do so. All we have to do is work hard, stay focused and go out each and every week and do what we do best."

Admission to the Crimson & Gold game is free and open to the public.

Sports Shorts

Jacob Carlson
Torch Reporter

American made

For the second straight year, Ferris alum Jeff Blashill will be the head coach of the U.S. hockey team at the world championships.

Under Blashill, the U.S. went 6-2 in 2017 before falling to Finland in the quarterfinals of the tournament. Blashill got the job over several qualified candidates including Stanley Cup winner Dan Bylsma of Grand Haven, who will be an assistant coach with the team.

The news came before the Detroit Red Wings announced they would bring back Blashill for a fourth season as their head coach. The tournament will begin on May 4 in Denmark.

Delayed

A number of Ferris athletic events were canceled this past weekend due to the severe weather, including the men's basketball team national championship celebration.

The celebration will now take place at 7 p.m. Friday, April 20, after the Ferris football team concludes their Crimson & Gold game, which begins at 5 p.m.

The Ferris hockey banquet was also postponed, with a new time and date yet to be announced.

Lucky No. 7

The Ferris women's golf team finished in a tie for seventh place at the Ashland University Invitational over the weekend at the Country Club of Ashland and the Ashland Golf Club in Ashland, Ohio.

15 teams saw action on the weekend. The Bulldogs were able to shoot a combined team score of 327 in Saturday's first round. The second round was scheduled for Sunday but was canceled due to inclement weather.

The Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (GLIAC) Championship begins Saturday, April 21.

Until next time Ferris women's tennis wraps up their season

Danny Collins
Torch Reporter

The Ferris women's tennis team closed up their spring season as the Bulldogs fell to Lewis University (Illinois) 6-3.

Lewis University claimed two out of the three doubles matches and went 2-1 in singles on the day against the Bulldogs.

The team finished the year 7-12 overall and 4-6 in GLIAC play.

"Overall, I think the team performed well and we are really excited for next season with a couple of recruits coming in and being our second season with new coach Daniel Hangstefer. We are really excited for fall and ready to have a great season," Ferris junior Nicole Meylor said.

The team will graduate four seniors: Adriana Fabrizio, Amiena Houston, Arien Kissinger and Teodora Stefanovic.

"This year, my team did a great job performing on and off the court. I'm red-shirted this year, so unfortunately I wasn't there for every match played but seeing my team during practice and execut-

ing during matches was definitely a proud moment for me as a teammate and just watching everyone work hard and grow individually," Houston said.

First year Head Coach Daniel Hangstefer is a former NCAA Division I student athlete at Lipscomb University (Tennessee). The past four seasons for Hangstefer were spent as the head coach at Metropolitan State University of Denver (Colorado).

With new recruits coming in the fall, the veteran experience from this past season and a coach with a year under his belt seems to be the recipe for success next year for the women's tennis squad.

The team will begin their off-season workouts this week and continue into the summer months to prepare for the fall.

"We are all looking forward to summer and it's important that all of us put in the hard work this summer so we're ready to jump into our conference season in September," sophomore Madelyn Groulx said. "I'd say our team



Amiena Houston



Nicole Meylor

Tennis | see page 13

Top Dawg

Emily Reed



Photo by: Abbey Good | Multimedia Editor

Brendan Samuels
Sports Editor

With Michigan hitting its so-called third winter, icy conditions threw a wrench into most contests this weekend. Nevertheless, we have another Top Dawg award to hand out.

Ferris senior catcher Emily Reed had a great day in a double-header with the Davenport University Panthers Wednesday, April 11.

In the first game, Reed made valuable contributions, recording one of the Bulldogs' four hits in a 4-1 loss.

The second game, however, is where Reed really warmed up. Reed recorded a double on her lone hit of the game and recorded one run batted in (RBI) and a sacrifice fly.

The Bulldogs would go on to lose the second game of the day by an 8-2 score.

A rough start to the season has the women sitting at 8-22 on the season overall and 2-12 in the GLIAC.

Reed and the Bulldogs will look to get back to action after a brief break when they take on Ashland University at 2 p.m. Tuesday, April 17, in Big Rapids.

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Photo by: Abbey Good | Multimedia Editor

Junior Nur Adim Ramdani Iswan prepares to compete in a singles match. The Bulldog men's tennis team has just claimed their fourth straight GLIAC title.

Champs x 4

The Bulldogs are on a 15-game winning streak since February

Jacob Carlson
Torch Reporter

For the fourth straight year, the Ferris men's tennis team is atop of the GLIAC standings.

The Bulldogs have an 18-2 record and have clinched their fourth straight regular season GLIAC title with a 7-2 win over Davenport University on Wednesday, April 11.

Just two days later, the Bulldogs were able to close out the regular season on the road with a decisive victory against Purdue Northwest

University, 9-0. The team is now sitting pretty good heading into the GLIAC tournament as winners of 15 straight games.

"It feels good but we also know that our job is not done yet," Head Coach Daniel Hangstefer said. "Our focus is on being prepared for postseason play."



Daniel Hangstefer

The Bulldogs went a perfect 8-0 in GLIAC play this season and have not suffered defeat since Feb. 25, at the hands of Western Michigan.

wood University a run for their money as the GLIAC's most prominent team. Northwood won 20 straight regular season GLIAC titles before this current four-year stretch the Bulldogs are on.

"Ferris is well known all over the country for its rich tennis history and I know that myself and the players are proud and humbled to be a part of that history of success," Hangstefer said.

The Bulldogs are now preparing for the GLIAC postseason tournament, where they will look to continue the run of success. The quarterfinals will begin on Friday, April 20, in Midland at the Greater Midland Community Tennis Center.

Ferris has certainly given North-

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Celebrate good times



Photo by: Megell Strayhorn | Torch Photographer

Senior wing Noah King pumps up the crowd as the Bulldogs return from their 2018 National Championship. Ferris will host an event Friday, April 20, inside Wink Arena to honor the champs.

A chance to celebrate the historic 2017-18 Ferris men's basketball season

Jacob Carlson
Torch Reporter

The Ferris men's basketball team will be recognized for their historic National Championship season at 7 p.m. Friday, April 20, at Jim Wink Arena.

"Celebrate the Champions" will allow the Ferris and Big Rapids community an opportunity to relive the championship experience with the team.

Fans will have the opportunity to once again watch the CBS coverage of the National Championship game before the team is introduced onto the floor. Those introductions will be followed by speeches from multiple players and others around the team. Among those is National Coach of the Year, Andy Bronkema.

After the speeches, there will be several events going on throughout the arena. Fans will have the opportunity to get autographs, take pictures, get close to the

National Championship trophy and much more.

"I really loved all the support we got when we initially returned and we had that crowd waiting for us," Ferris junior center Zach Hankins said. "It was a lot of fun then but we didn't have a ton of time to do much with them all, so this is going to be a really fun event where we get to give our time to the community and spend it reminiscing over the past season."

This will be the last time the team is together in a formal setting as seniors Noah King, Drew Cushingberry, Greg Krusniak, Tyquone Greer and Peter Firlik are graduating and Hankins is grad-transferring to Division I Xavier University.

The Bulldogs claimed a school record 38-1 season while winning the GLIAC tournament title for the fourth straight year, before going on to win the school's first ever National Championship.

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FERRIS STATE UNIVERSITY

Crunch time

Ferris softball looks to heat up as the end of the season approaches

Danny Collins
Torch Reporter

Mother Nature in Michigan can be inconsistent, as the months of March and April have seen, giving spring sports at Ferris some trouble.

The average temperature over the last two weeks has been 36 degrees, with precipitation and wind following on and off.

However, there are still teams that have their spring seasons, such as the Ferris women's softball team.

The team has had their last four games canceled in Big Rapids. The team was supposed to have an eight-game home stand in the month of April. However, they only had the opportunity to play two of those games.



Sawyer Wightman

"It's been difficult because we've only been able to go out and practice on our field a couple times, so we are usually stuck in the rubber room or the turf, which is totally different than actual dirt," Ferris second baseman Sawyer Wightman said.

"It's also been hard because our games keep getting canceled and our schedule is all messed up."

The team is coming off a pair of losses against Davenport University Wednesday, April 11, in which they lost by scores of 4-1 and 8-1.

The team currently is 8-22 overall on

the season and 2-12 in GLIAC play. The Bulldogs are also last place in the GLIAC standings.

"Since we are constantly bouncing between the indoors and outdoors, the key for consistency is focusing on mechanics inside," Ferris outfielder freshman Paige Kortz said. "It's very difficult to move flawlessly from a rubber floor, to turf, to dirt."

The team has struggled scoring runs this season and leaving runners in scoring position, only averaging three runs per game, making it hard to win consistently.

The Bulldogs are currently last in the conference in runs scored. However, it doesn't diminish their fight and grit on the field. The team has had seven games decided by two runs or less.

"I would say our best attribute as a team is our ability to just keep pushing through. Our team has been through a lot with different coaches and we still show up everyday giving 100 percent and wanting the best for the team and each other," Wightman said.

With the Bulldogs only having 14 guaranteed games left, it is crunch time for the team to get some victories if they want to make the GLIAC Tournament and finish the year on a high note.

"We always support each other unconditionally and never give up on one another. Despite if we are on or off the field, we are always looking out for one another," Kortz said.

The Bulldogs are scheduled to play Ashland University at 2 p.m. on Tuesday, April 17, in Big Rapids in a GLIAC doubleheader.



Photo by: Abbey Good | Multimedia Editor

Ferris freshman shortstop Kodi Ramirez fields a ground ball. The softball team is off to a rough start and weather has stalled much of their season so far.

Tennis

Continued from page 11



Photo by: Abbey Good | Multimedia Editor

Ferris sophomore Silvia Verebes gears up to take a swing. The women's tennis team finished their season with a 7-12 overall record.

had a really good year. It was our first season with our new coach and overall everyone adjusted well."

The GLIAC conference was extremely competitive this year, as six teams finished the year with winning record.

The Bulldogs finished in seventh place overall in the final conference standings.

"The main obstacle this year for my team was adjusting to having a new coach. With a new coach,

you never know what to expect as far as personality, purpose and coaching style. Coach Hangstefter definitely showed his purpose as a coach for this team the very first day of practice. He not only cares about us as tennis players but who we are as people off the court," Houston said.

The team's schedule has not been set in stone for the fall season. However, matches typically begin in late September.



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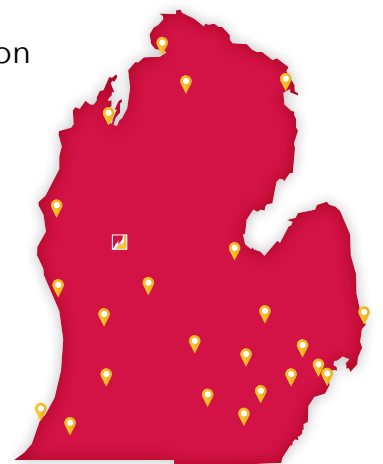
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OPINIONS

"It's not somebody else's job to keep your data from being harvested if you're sowing it all over the web." - Keith Salowich - See below for story

Marley Tucker | Opinions Editor | marleyitucker@gmail.com

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

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

I wanna talk about gay romance. Okay, not exactly gay romance but how homosexuality and non-binary relationships are viewed and portrayed.

This weekend I went and saw "Love, Simon" at the new theater, Bulldog Cinema, in town (which I 200 percent recommend by the way—cheap tickets and super comfy seats).

Anyway, needless to say I really enjoyed it but as we were walking out, I said something to my boyfriend along the lines of "I can't wait for a 'gay romance' to just be a 'romance.'"

"Love, Simon" was a great start; it's made just over 39 million

dollars so far, and it's ranked at number 15 in highest grossing teen romances of all time—below "Pretty in Pink" but above "The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants."

It gives an honest portrayal of what it's like to figure out who you are in a world driven by social networking. What this movie really proved though is that the lack of reception of LGBT romance isn't a result of people not wanting to see it but a general lack of marketing and advertising.

While I have always considered myself an ally of the LGBT community, I also don't believe in pushing my political agenda on people.

Luckily, love isn't a political

agenda.

The persecution of homosexuality is largely based in religion and not something that I think should be influencing the media, or what young people are exposed to in a secular country.

You heard me.

It's so troubling to me how much people oppose the idea of a lesbian Disney princess, or complain about how there is a gay couple on a TV show that's on before their kid's bedtime.

As a journalist, I've got news for you: your kids are going to meet gay people. Hell, your kids might be gay people. Trying to hide that lifestyle from them, or teach them

it's something wrong or shameful is going to do them so much more harm than good in the long run.

If your kid sees two men holding hands on the street, or two women sharing a kiss on a park bench and asks you about it, be honest. They are two people in love. I guarantee you, nine times out of 10 they're going to say "okay!" and go back to whatever they were doing.

Because kids understand love, and they don't hate unless they're taught to.

So I say, make "gay romance" just "romance."

And #GiveElsaAGirlfriend.

Protecting privacy in a digital world

Users need to take responsibility for their own data



Keith Salowich
Web Editor

What happens when you throw a billionaire millennial into a pack of older people who are just learning to harness the power of digital solitaire on their desktops?

In the case of Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg answering the questions of almost 100 legislators of congress, you get nationwide embarrassment.

I'm not sure which was worse: watching our government's leaders stumble through the same questions about the internet that a group of kindergarteners might ask or watching an incredibly powerful CEO shrug his way through the mishandling of his clientele's data.

Either way, the genie is not going back into the bottle on this one.

Facebook profited off our data by allowing

third-party applications to access it but they're far from the first corporation to betray the trust of users when it comes to privacy.

Collecting and profiting from data is a no-brainer for any large website. It's the reason you get a billion spam emails every day and it's the reason Cambridge Analytica was able to access personal data from 87 million Facebook users. It's easy and it makes money. In the absence of comprehensive regulations passed by the government, I don't see this changing.

We probably do need to ratify some new legislation to grow alongside our world's techno-

logical advancements but first and foremost, we need to take some responsibility for our own data.

If you don't want Big Brother capturing your every thought, then stop inviting him in.

You don't have to throw all your electronics in an incinerator and move to Antarctica to preserve your privacy. You just have to be cognizant of what you're putting out there and how it could be used.

If you don't want to be tracked, turn off the location tracker on your phone. Take a tour through a website's privacy settings and skim through the terms of usage agreements before mashing the "I accept" button. You can even tape an opaque blinder over your laptop's webcam if you're particularly paranoid.

It's not somebody else's job to keep your data from being harvested if you're sowing it all over the web.



Cartoon by: Samuel McNeill | Cartoonist

Dear Shonda Rhimes

Medically inaccurate dramas are not the time or place



Photo courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

Television drama writer and creator Shonda Rhimes once described herself as “obsessed with politics” in an interview with the Chicago Tribune, and it’s proven true, as her political leanings have started to seriously impact the content of her shows.

I just want to watch my damn “Grey’s Anatomy.”

Or “Law & Order: SVU,” or literally any other TV show nowadays without having to hear the latest political debate. So many shows have become over-politicized and I’m sick of it.

Yes, I respect the fact that the writers and producers are trying to use their platform for something they believe in. But for me, it’s not the time or place. If I want to read about the latest issues in our society, I’ll go research it and read about it. I don’t want it to be the focus of every episode of my favorite show.

When writers focus on shoving a new controversial topic into every episode, it gets old. It also leads them to focus less on character development and creating a meaningful plot, which is what got me hooked on these shows in the first place.

Shonda Rhimes, I used to have a love-hate relationship with you because yes, you kill off almost every single character I grow to love but the stories you came up



Cora Hall
Torch Reporter

with were fresh and unexpected. But now “Grey’s Anatomy” has become boring and almost predictable. I was so excited for this new season until I realized every episode would be a political drama.

Honestly, I haven’t watched an episode in months because of it.

The reason this bothers me the most is that the political issues they have been choosing to highlight have been beat into the ground already. I’ve heard the debates on police brutality and transgender/LGBTQ+ issues so many times I could bash my head in.

What’s more frustrating is the fact that the writers don’t delve far enough into these issues to be beneficial.

So instead, each episode is focused on a new hot topic on a superficial level that won’t actually make a difference. It just makes me less and less interested in

watching what was once my favorite show.

A lot of TV has become like this, with talk show hosts like Jimmy Kimmel piping up to give their opinion after every political scandal or controversial event. And I would be okay with this except for the fact that so much of what Kimmel says is an emotional response and very poorly fact checked. But people still shower him with the highest of praise for speaking out and they take him at his word.

Why? I don’t know. It’s probably because he’s a celebrity and it’s just too much work to look up what a politician with the same views as them is saying about the topic. Keeping ourselves thoroughly informed is just too hard for our generation, so TV like this is incredibly popular.

This trend is unlikely to stop anytime soon, so you can catch me boycotting the rest of season 14 (honestly this show is kind of dragging out, maybe it should end anyway) of “Grey’s Anatomy” and re-watching old episodes on Netflix.

Hit the brakes



Ebony Morrisette
Copy Editor

Every Tuesday and Thursday, I walk to the IRC to go to class and I never fail to witness some truly ridiculous shit.

The big parking lots where people park if they need to go to the Business building, the IRC, Timme or Top Taggart seems to be a haven for terrible drivers. Just last week, I witnessed at least four near collisions in that lot. I would blame the bad weather but this seems to be a year-round event.

What seems to be the biggest problem is people thinking they can simply pull out of the parking lot onto West Drive without even looking to see if anyone’s coming down the road. I mean, I know there are no stop signs present when pulling out of that parking lot but isn’t it common sense to look before you just decide to pull out onto a road? Maybe that’s just me. I’ve literally seen people swerve into the oncoming lane to avoid being hit from people coming out of those lots.

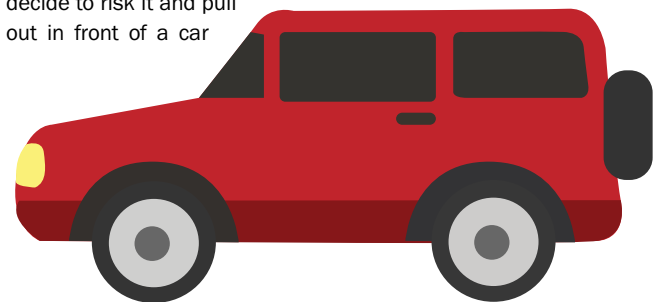
Then there are the people that do stop before pulling out but then decide that they’ve been waiting too long and just decide to risk it and pull out in front of a car

that’s half a centimeter away from them, causing the other person and everyone behind them to slam on their brakes.

Seriously, what’s the deal? Have I just uncovered that business majors are paying driving instructors to pass the road test? Are caffeine levels in the Starbucks drinks at the IRC so high that people get too jittery and begin to drive sporadically?

I realize that West Drive is pretty narrow and it can be difficult for people to pull in and out of the parking lots, causing traffic to move slowly but the solution is not to get reckless.

Whatever it is, I suggest Ferris start handing out those old Michigan Driving Manual booklets we all got in driver’s training so people can brush up on their right-of-way knowledge. Perhaps it would even be cheaper to just install stop signs at every single exit lane in those lots.



Graphic by: Sarah Massey | Production Manager

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Everything you don't see

*The emotional and psychological
factors of domestic violence*



Harley Harrison
News Editor

Approximately half of women and men in the United States experience mental aggression from an intimate partner in their lifetime, according to the National Domestic Violence Hotline.

For women, ages 18 to 34 are the time periods where they are most likely to experience intimate partner violence, according to the hotline. Which means we need to have a talk.

Domestic violence doesn't always look like violence. It's not always physical abuse or the extreme situations you hear on the news. While those situations are awful and I wouldn't wish them upon anyone, it's important to illustrate the emotional and psychological side.

The problem with mental aggression is that it's based in manipulation and control. Many people experience it without realizing that they fall victim to it. I was one of these people.

When others ask me about my experience, they usually seem shocked that I would "allow" this to happen to me. Many of my friends know that I'm an outspoken advocate for survivors but the issue is that these situations don't start out with aggression.

When I first started dating my ex, he was a knight in shining armor and he treated me like a queen. Even my dad liked him—which said a lot—and we became a symbol of the perfect couple in our social groups.

But months later, the mental and emotional abuse began, without me even realizing it. There's a level of manipulation involved that gives the aggressor control over your emotions and self value. Our problems were hidden—no one had any idea—because he had me convinced that all problems should only be known to the people involved.

It wasn't until after we broke up that I realized the abuse and I'll never forget that moment.

One of my dearest friends had come over to help me pack up his things. I was crying and venting and talking about all the issues I had never shared with anyone while we were dating. My friend, who works at a women's shelter, began recognizing signs of domestic violence. She began asking me questions and started writing a list of things I never considered to be examples of mental aggression.

This is why I want to share them with you, in the hopes that anyone out there might realize they're not alone in this struggle. Here are some signs of emotional and psychological abuse within an intimate relationship:

Financial dependency: at first it might have seemed sweet that they insisted on paying for everything but now they use it against you.

Lack of empathy: any time you get emotional, they might roll their eyes or get angry with you. The goal of this is to make you feel like the crazy one for having feelings. My ex once told me I "needed professional help" for being homesick while living by myself in another country.

Controlling your emotions: my ex would purposefully pick a fight right before something timely and important, like an exam. In return, this would throw me off my game because I'd be stressing about him rather than focusing on what I had to do.

Physically abusing other things: maybe they don't physically hurt you but they might punch walls or throw things when they get angry with you. One time my ex even punched a metal door so hard that his knuckles started bleeding.

Blaming you for the abuse: no matter what you do, everything is always your fault. Sound familiar?

Cheating on you or flirting with others in front of you: we used to work together and over the summer we were dating, he would flirt with one of our co-workers constantly in front of me. According to the hotline, this is a method of exerting control to show that you are replaceable.

There are so many other signs of mental and psychological abuse and I consider myself fortunate to be out of that relationship. If you resonated with this article at all, I would encourage you to take a look at the National Domestic Violence Hotline website—if it's safe for you to do so—or contact WISE, the local shelter for domestic violence.

Predators at every turn



Graphic by: Abbey Good | Multimedia Editor

People love to exploit broke college students

I'll be frank: I am sick and tired of people pressuring and exploiting college-age adults just because they can. As soon as we graduate and get the alumni sweatshirts to prove it, colleges are holding their hands out, asking for money like we didn't just sell our souls to pay for their services in the first place.

In addition, college students everywhere are being exploited when they get unpaid internships, because they do work that should be given to entry-level employees.

What can we do though? Most majors require internships to graduate and paid internships exist like puzzles in the classifieds section—you can find them but it's an exhausting process.

Employers often appear to disregard Labor Department rules concerning unpaid interns. Is it still considered a "win-win" situation if students learn valuable skills even though they are unpaid and spend considerable time and money to do it? Is it fair when supply and demand keeps students stuck in the loop?

I see people in my mind's eye complaining about millennials and the job market but you know what? We work extremely hard for what we have. I was lucky to get the internship I have but friends of mine haven't been so fortunate and I've seen them struggle. Some businesses aren't being malicious when they offer internships for no pay but others are exploitative and know exactly what they're doing.

People in our generation are adrift with crippling debt, expensive rent and crushing expectations. We know that no one is going to save us, so we make do with what we have.

We aren't killing our retirement funds by eating avocado toast! A hard day's work demands a fair



Marley Tucker
Opinions Editor

wage and the disappointing thing is, if we stick to our guns and don't take the unpaid internship, then someone else will just swoop in and take it instead.

From alumni donations to internships, no wonder 20-somethings have abysmal sleep schedules. Now let's sink our teeth into another predatory villain hiding behind flowery words and big promises: student loans.

Interest rates on student loans vary considerably. Being aware of how your student loan operates is crucial in avoiding exorbitant rates once you finish school. The devil is in the details, and the fine print locks students into parasitic relationships that bleed them dry. If you can't pay your loans back, then kiss your credit score goodbye and any chances of buying a house in the future.

Student loan debt delays other life decisions and that can weigh heavier than anything Atlas had to deal with. Student loan debt is different from other types of debt in that it doesn't simply go away if you can't pay. Even if you die, private student loans can come back to haunt your loved ones.

I am bone-tired of people seeing college students and recent grads as people to exploit and profit from. I know our generation can survive but it isn't fair that we have to struggle for everything we have in the way we do.