



**Ferris State University**  
**TORCH**  
*Truth, fairness and accuracy since 1931*

**HERE'S WHAT'S INSIDE**

**TAT TALES**  
*It may last forever, but that's the point. Read up as students share the meanings behind their ink and their favorite places to get tattooed.*  
**LIFESTYLES | PAGE 8**

**THE NAGEL DIFFERENCE**  
*Ferris women's soccer forward Pia Nagel is making an impact as a freshman. Learn about how she got to Ferris.*  
**SPORTS | PAGE 11**

# History in the making



## Election Results

**Governor**  
Gretchen Whitmer (D)

**Secretary of State**  
Jocelyn Benson (D)

**Attorney General**  
Dana Nessel (D)

**US Senate**  
Debbie Stabenow (D)

**Congress Representatives for the 1st - 14th Districts**  
Jack Bergman (R)  
Bill Huizenga (R)  
Justin Amash (R)  
John Moolenaar (R)  
Daniel Kildee (D)  
Fred Upton (R)  
Tim Walberg (R)  
Elissa Slotkin (D)  
Andy Levin (D)  
Paul Mitchell (R)  
Haley Stevens (D)  
Debbie Dingell (D)  
Rashida Tlaib (D)  
Brenda Lawrence (D)

**U.S. House Michigan District 3**  
Brenda Jones (D)

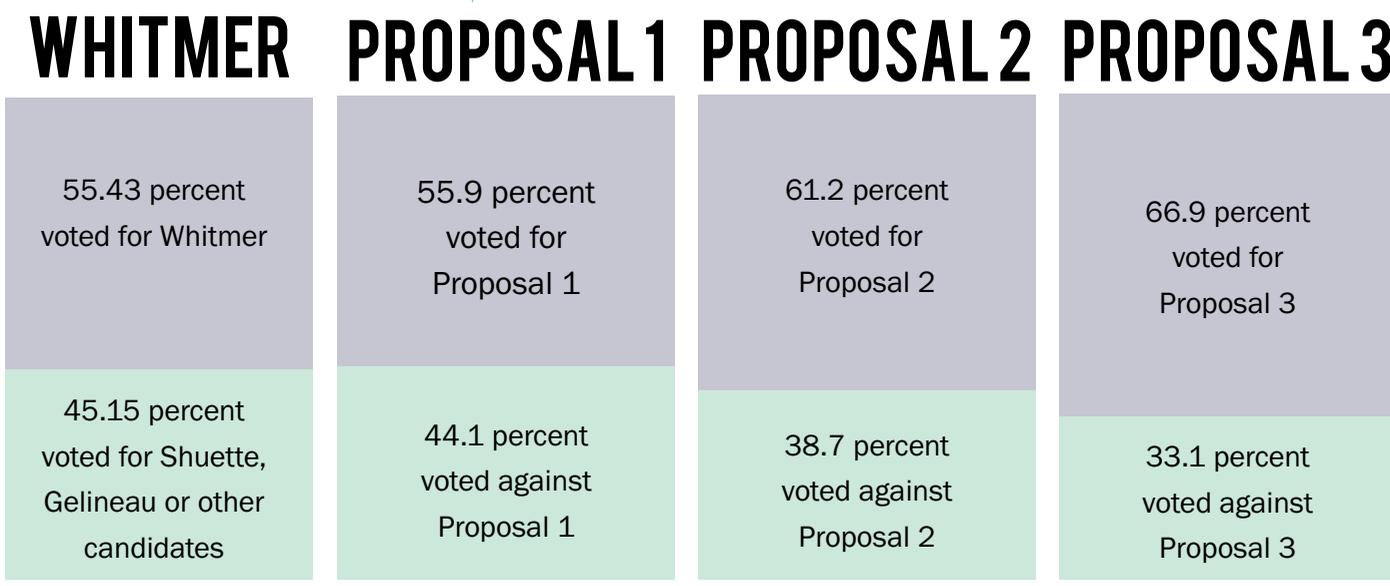
**State Board of Education**  
Judith Pritchett (D)  
Tiffany Tilley (D)

**University of Michigan Board of Regents**  
Jordan Acker (D)  
Paul Brown (D)

**Michigan State University Board of Trustees**  
Brianna Scott (D)  
Kelly Tebay (D)

**Wayne State University Board of Governors**  
Bryan Barnhill (D)  
Anil Kumar (D)

**Justice of Supreme Court**  
Elizabeth Clement  
Megan Cavanagh



Graphic by: Sarah Massey | Production Manager

## Michigan votes in new governor and proposals, young people make significant appearance at polls

**Madison Kettlewell and Cora Hall**  
*Torch Reporter and News Editor*

Michigan youth have yet to show up in droves to the polls, but this election saw a significant increase in youth participation nationally.

According to the Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement, national youth (ages 18 to 29) turnout this election estimated around 31 percent, compared to only 21 percent of youth who voted in the 2014 midterm elections.

Ferris television and digital media production junior Daniel Laroche said that for Michigan youth, the proposals appealed to them enough to get involved.

"I feel like there was more useful things on the ballot. Proposition 1 was definitely a driving force," Laroche said. "But I feel that the other two propositions, ending or reducing gerrymandering so that our votes actually count and making it easier for us to vote in the future, appealed to our generation well."



Daniel Laroche

Michigan voters elected new democratic governor Gretchen Whitmer and passed three major proposals Tuesday, Nov. 6. Whitmer won with 53.42 percent of votes to Bill Schuette's 43.81 percent, according to Michigan's Secretary of State's (SOS) website. Bill Gelineau received 1.34 percent of Michigan's votes



Christopher Terrell

and the other candidates received less than one percent.

"Fixing our roadways sounds like a really, really wonderful idea," Laroche said. "I hope that she actually follows through with it."

Michigan's general voter turnout for this election was over 385,000 more than the past two gubernatorial election years, according to the Michigan SOS website. Ferris construction management freshman Christopher Terrell said this was because the proposals on the ballot were aimed towards young voters.

"The election is based off people our age, young people. When they talk about getting a driver's license and being able to register vote at the same time, that's for us," Terrell said. "The driver's license and registering to vote, I agree on that. For legalizing marijuana, I agree on that, as well."

Proposal 1 passed and legalized the recreational use and possession of marijuana for Michigan residents over the age of 21, and also approved the taxation of marijuana. Arguably the most controversial, the proposal had a close result with 55.9 percent of voters in favor of it and

Election | see page 3

For the full list of results, visit Michigan's Secretary of State's website.

*The above information was gathered from the Michigan Secretary of State's website*

Got news? Let us know.

Email: fsutorcheditor@gmail.com  
Phone: 231.591.5978



LIKE US ON FACEBOOK  
FERRIS STATE TORCH



FOLLOW US ON TWITTER  
@FSUTORCH



ADD US ON INSTAGRAM  
FSUTORCH



WATCH US ON YOUTUBE  
FSU TORCH

Connect with us on social media - Read articles online at [www.fsutorch.com](http://www.fsutorch.com)

# NEWS

Cora Hall | News Editor | hallc36@ferris.edu

## Serving those who served



Graphic by: Sarah Massey | Production Manager

### Student veterans praise university's accommodations

Grant Siddall  
Torch Reporter

As Ferris honored the military with a Veterans Day concert Sunday, Nov. 11, some veterans and military members took time to praise Ferris' treatment of student veterans.

Whether they are adjusting to civilian life as a student or having to report to monthly training as a reservist, veterans and other military members are non-traditional students. Ferris has more than 400 student veterans, according to collegefactual.com, and for many, the transition to civilian life is a difficult one.



Kristin Wilcox

"It's like being dropped in a vat of ice water. It's a shock going from one day being in a family environment where everybody has your back and is your brother or sister to being in an environment where you're in a pool of sharks and everyone is out for themselves and nobody is going to help you," Ferris biology senior and U.S. Coast Guard veteran Kristin Wilcox said. "Coming from the military side into the civilian side, we need to support those vets and we need to have camaraderie, which is what we're trying to build in the Veteran's Resource room."

Ferris' Veteran Resource Center (VRC) helps veterans adjust to civilian and college life and is located in the Center for Leadership, Activities and Career Services. The VRC also helps veterans with non-college related tasks, like helping with Veterans Affairs healthcare applications and disability claims.

Wilcox says that Ferris' treatment of veterans played a large role in her decision to attend school here, and for many other students, the VRC has been instrumental to their collegiate success.

"Ferris has two employees in the VRC dedicated to helping us out all the time: Jacob Schrot and Sean Allen. They are tremendous and help in any way they possibly can. They bend

over backwards to help with anything we need," Ferris electrical engineering senior, Student Veteran Alliance RSO treasurer and Army National Guard reservist Mathew Dawson said. "Ferris has employed people that actually care. To be honest, I don't know if there would even be a concert for veterans if they weren't actively pushing for it."



Mathew Dawson

For students like Dawson and criminal justice senior Seth Dredge, who is also an Army National Guard reservist, one weekend a month and some weekdays are spent training. It's an extra commitment that they say professors are understanding of and one they don't let get in the way of school.



Seth Dredge

"There are challenges that it brings. I miss classes here and there because drill happens on Friday or even some Thursdays, but you just get your work done prior. I don't like to ask for extensions so I just get work done beforehand," Dredge said. "If anything, I think it keeps me more on top of things."

Despite the challenges, Dredge says that the benefits, especially having his schooling paid for, makes it worth it. For both Dredge and Dawson, they also say that their professors are understanding and accommodating.

"I've never had a professor not understand my commitment, and so they're always really cool with me missing class. I think on a normal basis, with our duty to the state and to the Army, if you know you have something due, you just do it ahead of time. I can't imagine not doing this, and so it's hard to say it makes things more difficult because it's a commitment I have all the time," Dawson said.

The 16th annual Veterans Day concert was held by the West Central Concert Band. It featured special musical selections from all five branches of service and veteran speaker Velvet Underwood.

"It's like being dropped in a vat of ice water." -Kristin Wilcox - See below for story

# Making progress

## Faculty vote to ratify tentative agreement

Cora Hall  
News Editor

After months of negotiations, picketing, legal fights and sit-ins, the Ferris Faculty Association (FFA) has ratified the latest proposal from the university with more than 98 percent of FFA members voting in favor of the agreement.

The tentative agreement is a five year contract including an \$1,841 increase to base salary upon ratification for the 2018-19 academic year, a two percent salary increase for the first three years and a 2.25 percent increase for the next two years. The FFA was also given the Supplemental Market Adjustment (SMA) of \$300,000 each year in this deal along with other agreements.

"Well, number one, it's a relief because for the good of the university we needed to come to some resolution," FFA President and Physical Sciences Professor Charles Bacon said. "My main concern is that we have properly represented our faculty. The hallmark of any agreement is that both sides are equally dissatisfied. Did we get all we wanted? No. Did they? No."



Charles Bacon

The FFA held the vote Wednesday, Nov. 7, and continued through Thursday, Nov. 8, to approve the contract for around 450 faculty members.

The proposal went to the Board of Trustees for approval Friday, Nov. 9. "We are pleased to have reached this agreement with the FFA," Ferris Communications Officer Michelle Rasmussen said. "The university takes great pride in all its employees, and through this agreement reached, the university will continue to provide a competitive salary and benefits package to retain and attract excellent faculty."

Ferris Mathematics Professor Holly Price, who is on the FFA negotiating team, said that she wanted better for the faculty, but the proposal is reasonable.



Holly Price

"I refuse to call it a good offer because we've had better. But it's reasonable," Price said.

Contract negotiations began May 25 of this year and lasted nearly six months. Faculty members went on strike Aug. 27, the first day of classes, but were ordered back into classrooms the

next day by a temporary restraining order. As a result, many FFA members taught the majority of the fall semester without a contract in place.

"It upsets me because it tarnishes Ferris' reputation when you don't try to work together, and I think when you try to get outsiders to work out issues of contracts, it shows that there is dissension and it shouldn't be that way," Ferris Criminal Justice Professor Nancy Hogan said. "I'm pleased that we got what we did but I think that based on what I see and what I'm expected to do, then it's less than what we deserve."



Nancy Hogan

Bacon voiced his frustration about the length of negotiations with the university and the attorneys, and said that if the FFA had been allowed to sit down with just Ferris administration, the process would have been much shorter.

"Honestly, it was unnecessary. We have people whose jobs it is — who are paid — to handle labor relations, who know their jobs, that we work with every week on things, that we have good relationships with. It was unnecessary to make this a contentious process by bringing in an outside lawyer," Bacon said. "I'm totally serious when I say I could have sat down with Steve Stratton, who is the labor relations director, in one day and gotten this done."



Steve Stratton

At the FFA general assembly meeting Nov. 7, the negotiations team made it clear that they were not fully satisfied with this agreement but considered it to be reasonable with a couple big wins, including the SMA fund and the agreement to reset healthcare contributions to state caps to match inflation in the first and fourth years of the contract.

FFA Vice President and English Professor John Caserta emphasized to faculty the importance of what they did and the unity they displayed through negotiations.

"The real leadership is with all of us. You inspired the team, you inspired students, you inspired your fellow faculty members," Caserta said. "So, it is a big deal. You don't know how big of a deal it is to beat Eisler and Jim Green."

Ferris President David Eisler was not available to comment on the tentative agreement.

## FFA tentative agreement vote

253 total voters

98.02 percent (248) approved

1.98 percent (5) rejected

The above information was provided by Charles Bacon

# - ON THE RECORD -

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

## Weird flex but OK

**Cora Hall**  
News Editor

### Case closed

Nov. 1, midnight, officers investigated larceny that was reported to have happened on Oct. 4 at the Student Recreation Center. One subject was referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

### Do you think smoking drugs is cool?

Nov. 1, 11:15 p.m., officers responded to a report of a controlled substance violation in Bond Hall. Two subjects were referred to the Office of Student Conduct and issued

appearance tickets. The investigation is still open.

### What's mine is yours

Nov. 2, midnight, officers investigated a larceny that was reported to have happened on Oct. 28 in Brophy Hall. Two subjects were referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

### Hazy activities

Nov. 2, 8:54 p.m., officers received a report of a controlled substance violation at Maple Street and Third Avenue. One subject was referred to the Office of Student Conduct and issued an appearance ticket. The

investigation is still open.

### How does this relate to Ferris?

Nov. 6, 2 p.m., officers dealt with an obstruction of justice at the Calhoun County Jail. One subject was arrested.

### It's not actually legal yet

Nov. 7, 5 p.m., officers responded to a report of a controlled substance violation in McNerney Hall. One subject was referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

### Weird flex but OK

Nov. 7, 9:39 p.m., officers investigated a controlled substance violation and misdemeanor traffic violation at Fuller Avenue and Green Street. The investigation is still open.

### Pot in Pickell

Nov. 8, 10:43 p.m., officers received a report of a controlled substance violation in Pickell Hall. The investigation is still open.

Ferris Department of Public Safety issued 321 tickets between the dates of Nov. 4 and Nov. 10, totaling \$5,035.

## NEWS BRIEFS

**Cora Hall**  
News Editor

### Mental health on campus

Learn more about mental health 11 a.m. Thursday, Nov. 15, in IRC 120. The Personal Counseling Center will present the services they provide and explain mental health concerns that affect college students such as anxiety, depression and eating disorders. For more information, contact Jennifer Spicer at (231) 591-5968.

### Ping pong for a cause

A ping pong tournament fundraiser will be hosted at the Student Recreation Center basketball courts 2 p.m. Friday, Nov. 16. The fundraiser aids the local food shelter and students must bring non-perishable food items or \$3 to enter, and the winner will receive \$20 credit to Walmart. For more information, contact Jonah Connette at connetj1@ferris.edu.

### YBBW Men's Appreciation

Join You Beautiful Black Woman (YBBW) in their annual Men's Appreciation event 4 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 18, in the West Campus Community Center. The event will have food, games, prizes and performances, and all are welcome to attend. For more information, contact Charnice LaGrone at lagronc2@ferris.edu.

### Women's Advocacy Forum Potluck

Participate in a lunchtime discussion about the Women of Color Collaborative Luncheon 11:30 a.m. Monday, Nov. 19, in FLITE 438 and 442. This potluck is an opportunity to network with other women on campus and share takeaways from the discussion. To RSVP, email Carrie Franklund at CarrieFranklund@ferris.edu.

## WEEKLY WORLD NEWS

Catch up on news around the globe

**Cora Hall**  
News Editor

### Shoyna, Russia

A fishing village in Russia on the White Sea is slowly becoming engulfed in sand. Shoyna was a thriving fishing port in the past, but overfishing has been speculated to have ruined the area's ecosystem, with trawlers scraping the sea floor clean of silt and seaweed. Ocean waves began sweeping sand ashore and with nothing to hold it back anymore, the town is now under sand. This remains speculation of experts as no formal environmental studies have been conducted.

Original story by Sergey Ponomarev. Nov. 11, 2018. *The New York Times*.

### Jin Zhou, China

Many in China have resorted to buying illegal pharmaceutical drugs or buying the ingredients on the black market and making the drugs themselves, especially cancer drugs. Many of China's aging population in the country's insurance system do not have coverage for the rising prices of

treatments and drugs. Drug approvals also remain incredibly backlogged and go through an extensive vetting process even after they're been approved in the U.S. and Europe.

Original story by Sui-Lee Wee. Nov. 11, 2018. *The New York Times*.

### Sang-e-Masha, Afghanistan

The Taliban moved in on Jaghori, Afghanistan Sunday, Nov. 11, killing at least 30 of the Special Forces commandos trained by the United States who were defending the district. Jaghori, historically viewed as a safe district, was attacked last week after the Taliban broke a longstanding truce. Zafar Sharif, governor of Jaghori District, said no Afghan troops responded to the attack of 1,000 Taliban until the commandos arrived Wednesday, Nov. 7. As of late Sunday night, it was reported that Hotqol, a town a few miles from the district capital, Sang-e-Masha, was undefended and citizens were fleeing the district.

Original story by Rod Nordland. Nov. 12, 2018. *The New York Times*.

## Torch Corrections

Did we make a mistake?  
Let us know!

Corrections can be submitted through email at [fsutorcheditor@gmail.com](mailto:fsutorcheditor@gmail.com) or by calling 231-591-5978

CHECK US OUT ONLINE  
FOR EXCLUSIVE ARTICLES  
AND PHOTO GALLERIES AT  
[WWW.FSUTORCH.COM](http://WWW.FSUTORCH.COM)

## Election

Continued from page 1

44.1 percent opposed to it, according Michigan's SOS website.



Lorin  
Burch

"I'm extra thrilled that the first proposal went through," Laroche said. "I'm very happy that all of my friends and loved ones are at significantly less risk of going to prison for a nonsensical felony. I greatly appreciate that."

The proposal earned a lot of support, but citizens opposed have voiced open concern toward a lack of current way to test the amount of marijuana in one's immediate system.

"I'm really torn on this one," Ferris heavy equipment service engineering technology freshman Lorin Burch said. "For a person who would be smoking, it's not fair to them. Officers shouldn't be able to draw their own line on whether they think someone is impaired or not while driving."

Proposal 2 also passed, which is the independent

redistricting commission initiative. Results from Michigan's SOS website show 61.2 percent of residents voted in favor of it, while 38.7 percent voted against it. The proposal will now have 13 random voters redraw district lines for elections instead of elected officials.

The last proposal on the ballot covered voting policies in our state, and passed with 66.9 percent of votes, according to Michigan's SOS website. The proposal will add eight additional policies to Michigan's Constitution to make voting easier for citizens, including straight-ticket voting, automatic voter registration, same-day voter registration and no-excuse absentee voting.

"I'm not opposed to people getting their right to vote in an easier way. I think that's everybody's fundamental right," Burch said.

Some students said that more than anything, they hope this election brings Michigan closer together, regardless of political beliefs.

"In politics and everything recently it seems like it's just people attacking one another, whether they're Republican or Democrat," Ferris television and digital media production junior Sacoy Sales said. "I just hope there's a positive change in everything. We could actually all come together and look forward to changing different problems that face the nation."

## Friends Don't Let Friends Plead Guilty



Call Samuel's Law Office  
231-796-8858  
[www.samuelslawoffice.com](http://www.samuelslawoffice.com)

Attorney: James R. Samuels



# Academic adjustments



Photo by: Kaitlyn Kirchner | Torch Photographer

Students take time to study at FLITE, where several major changes have taken place this school year. Students can now reserve study rooms through the website and take advantage of the Academic Literacies Center, which has moved to the first floor of FLITE.

## Thousands of books removed from FLITE among other changes

**Dan Deitsch**  
Torch Reporter

Ferris Library for Information, Technology and Education (FLITE) has gone through some major changes in this year, including the Academic Literacies Center's (ALC) move to the first floor, new furniture and a new website.

"The website matches the look and feel of the university's website," Dean of the Library Scott Garrison said. "The new

website allows users to sign in using their MyFSU username and password. It is built using current best practices, including accessibility and usability."

Students have been offered to provide feedback on the new website, which has helped it improve.

"We have done extensive usability testing on the site with students and have gotten great feedback in the process," Garrison said.



Hannah  
Kranick

In addition, a change has also been made to the way study rooms can be reserved in FLITE: Ferris students are now able to reserve study rooms through FLITE's new website.

"Students have requested the ability to do this for several years," Garrison said.

However, earlier this year, students were required to reserve a study room 24 hours in advance

through FLITE's website, and some were not happy with the change.

"It can be annoying when you're using a study room, and someone comes in and says, 'You have to get out,' if someone reserved it online," Ferris nursing freshman Hannah Kranick said.

However, as a result of student feedback, FLITE has since made changes to this policy.

"We have already made changes to the process and policies based on student feedback," Garrison said. "For example: students may walk in and reserve on the spot. Students may walk in and use a study room that has not been reserved, any time the library is open."

The ALC has also been through a large change in 2018. Previously located in the Arts and Science Commons, the ALC has since moved to the first floor of FLITE.

FLITE | see page 5

# Controversial caravans

*Many students believe migrants should be given asylum*

**Landry Shorkey**  
Torch Reporter

The exact number of Central American migrants currently approaching the U.S. has been difficult to estimate, but the New York Times reports there could be as many as several thousands of people in the caravans.



Ali  
Hanafi

Most of the immigrants will likely be seeking asylum in the U.S., which is defined by the American Immigration Council (AIC) as "a protection granted to foreign nationals already in the United States or at the border who meet the international law definition of a 'refugee.'"

According to the AIC, a refugee is "a person unable or unwilling to return to his or her home country, and cannot obtain protection in that country, due to past persecution or a well-founded fear of being persecuted in the future 'on account of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group or political opinion.'"

Ferris nuclear medicine technology junior Ali Hanafi said he supports the rights of asylum for the migrants.

"They shouldn't be different than any other people here, because we are all equal no matter who you are. Maybe whatever happened in their country or in their life, we should give them a better chance now," Hanafi said.

According to CNN, potential reasons for the formation of the caravans include drug trafficking, organized crime, corruption, absence of democracy and climate change in the migrants' home countries.

President Donald Trump has demonstrated public opposition to the caravans, announced a plan to cut back on immigrants' ability to request asylum and said there was "rampant abuse" of the U.S.'s asylum system, according to an article from USA Today.

Many Ferris students expressed disagreement with Trump's views. Ferris psychology sophomore Amanda Zeller said the migrants should be granted asylum and that Trump's views are on the wrong side.

"I feel like they should, especially the fact that we have so many abandoned places that aren't being used that can just get fixed up for them," Zeller said. "I feel like it's more on the wrong side just because it is supposed to be the land of the free."

The Washington Post gives further insight into the President's opposition, stating that while the estimated 5,000 to 10,000 caravan travelers in total account for only 10 to 20 percent of the 50,000 or so monthly arrests at the border, the Trump administration views the caravans as a crisis to its enforcement model.



Zackary  
Wallace

Ferris criminal justice freshman Zackary Wallace said that he can see President Trump's point of view, but that asylum should still be granted.

"I think so, because you know, there's a reason why they're leaving and trying to come to the United States," Wallace said. "I can kind of see where he's coming from, like we don't want so many people coming in and such, but also you have to think these people want to come to America."

## What is 'asylum'?

### According to the American Immigration Council:

"Each year, thousands of non-citizens arriving at our border or already in the United States apply for asylum, or protection from persecution. Those granted asylum have the opportunity to apply to live in the United States permanently, receive certain benefits, and be reunited with their family members."

# Let's get down to business



Photo by: Megell Strayhorn | Multimedia Editor

Ferris criminal justice freshman Sallie Fennema is a representative for Crowned Free, a clothing line that gives 15 percent of its profits to empowering women who have been rescued from trafficking. Fennema said that 50 percent of their products are made by survivors.

## Students showcase products at expo

**Landry Shorkey**  
Torch Reporter

Students had the floor to showcase their own businesses for the first time at Ferris in the Student Business Expo.

Twelve students participated as vendors in the event Tuesday, Nov. 6, in the IRC. Money raised through registration costs benefited the Student United Way Campaign, Ferris Coordinator of Career and Volunteer events Michele Albright said.

Ferris nursing senior Allison Singer participated in the expo and runs an online Etsy shop called Undeniable Favors, where she makes products that showcase her religious faith.



Allison Singer

"I really enjoy calligraphy, and I also really love God and my faith is really important to me. So, combining the two was just a fun way to be able to share my faith with others and encourage others in their faith too, and do it in a cute way," Singer said.

Many of the student entrepreneurs at the event were excited to share stories of their business endeavors. Ferris information security and intelligence sophomore Deven Martin runs his own personal photography business.

"A good friend of mine told me that if you want something to be a business, then treat it like a business from the start, so I kind of went all in. I made a website, I made business cards and I started marketing myself as if I was an established business," Martin said.

Many of the vendors felt that the student business expo was a great way to get the word out about their

products and services.

"It's great for me. When I was living in Muskegon, which is a larger town and more of an art community, it was a lot easier to find work and it's been really difficult since I've been back in Big Rapids, so this is a good opportunity to break into the student space," Martin said.



Elayna Clow

Ferris elementary education freshman Elayna Clow participated in the event to educate others about the company Juice Plus+.

"Juice Plus+ started during the juicing craze, and they wanted an easier and more cheap way of getting your daily amounts of fruits and vegetables into your diet," Clow said. "After looking into it, I really did see that a lot of immune system problems are from a lack of nutrients that you're getting through your diet, so I started trying these products and I think they're amazing, so I decided to help others by selling them."

People who may not like eating fruits and vegetables can still get their 30 fruits and vegetables per day through capsule form, which is why Juice Plus+ is a good way to help others, according to Clow.

"Right now, I'm just trying to help others. That was really my main point of this. It's not about making money, it's about showing others healthy ways to get their fruits and vegetables," Clow said.

The student business expo raised about \$200 in donations for the Student United Way Campaign.

"This was a great way to help our students promote their businesses as well as contribute toward the Student United Way Campaign," Albright said.

### FLITE

Continued from page 4

"The Academic Literacies Center is a major step forward in providing academic services that all students need, in closer proximity to each other," Garrison said. "Students may now get help with research, tutoring and writing all in one building. The Center offers new opportunities for library faculty and staff to collaborate with the tutoring and writing personnel to offer new programs and services together."



Carter Zeron

FLITE removed 20,118 books from the building, making room for the ALC to move in. FLITE also removed nearly 8,500 outdated reference books from the building, which increased room substantially.

"Some of the books we weeded were donated to Better World Books as many other libraries do," Garrison said. "Many were not in good enough condition to donate and were recycled."

Kranick said she is concerned about the book removal and the number of books that FLITE got

rid of.

"As for the books, it depends on what the books are," Kranick said. "I think students should have access to whatever is available in the library."

For some students, the book removal has not had a negative impact on their learning here at Ferris.

"The changes haven't been a huge issue for me," Ferris construction management freshman Carter Zeron said. "I rent all my books from the bookstore, so I don't get much use out of the books from the library."

## Changes in FLITE, by the numbers

Books moved: **28,841**  
Books removed: **20,118**  
Reference books removed: **8,478**  
Print legal books removed: **2,016**  
Books with 'Call Numbers B through G' removed: **9,624**

The above information was provided by Scott Garrison



**HONEST & AFFORDABLE CAR CARE**

Mufflers • Brakes  
Struts • Shocks  
Undercarriage Specialist  
**FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC**

**Auto Value**  
Certified Service Center

**ASE**  
Certified Mechanics on Staff  
Locally Owned and Operated

**MIGHTY MUFFLER & BRAKE**

North End of Town  
1204 N. State St.,  
Big Rapids, MI

VISA MASTERCARD DISCOVER

**FREE ESTIMATES**  
**592-1204**

# LIFESTYLES

"I know a lot of people who find out I have tattoos say I don't seem like the type to have any tattoos." - Tosha Cross - See page 8 for story

Alicia Jaimes | Lifestyles Editor | jaimesa@ferris.edu

## “What are you thankful for?”

*Bulldogs show appreciation for this holiday season*

**“I am thankful for the opportunities that have come my way throughout the years as far as jobs, scholarships, road trips, being able to attend college. I’m also thankful for the love and support I’ve received from my friends and family and co-workers.”**

- Savannah Dunham  
Ferris accounting senior

**“Well, I’m thankful for being able to see my family. I think that being here and being on my own for awhile kind of makes you appreciate seeing your family more.”**

- Erica Hall  
Ferris music and entertainment business freshman

**“I am thankful for my family because they have always been there for me, especially in college when you don’t have anyone, so you feel kind of alone. Like, my car broke down recently and they were able to help me out. So, they’ve just always been there and stick by me for everything.”**

- Megan Yeager  
Ferris allied health freshman

**“I would say health because there is a lot of things going around and going on. So, just being healthy is a really good thing to have.”**

- Kimberly Sikkema  
Ferris HVACR freshman

**“I am thankful for my family and friends, and just all of my loved ones in general. I am thankful for all of the wonderful opportunities I have been given in life and all of the wonderful people around me.”**

- Daniel Laroche  
Ferris television and digital media production junior



## Turkey time traditions

### Home for the holidays

**Briana Hammontree**  
Torch Reporter

With Thanksgiving quickly approaching, Ferris accounting senior Savannah Dunham and many other students are making their holiday plans.

“I am spending Thanksgiving Day with my dad and aunt in Ohio,” Dunham said. “Then, my fiancé is flying to Michigan from Kansas where he is based in the Army. I will be spending the rest of the weekend with him.”

During Thanksgiving break, Dunham also observes the tradition of watching both the Lions Thanksgiving game and the Michigan vs. Ohio State game Saturday with her family.

“The Michigan Wolverines have not beat the Ohio State Buckeyes since 2011. I was home in Michigan that year, so by breaking my tradition this year and watching the game in Michigan, I’m hoping that they will win again,” Dunham said.

While Dunham hasn’t broken tradition in a while, she sees more changing traditions in the future due to graduation, moving, making friends and getting married.

“I always spend Thanksgiving with my family. This year, I would like to get together with some friends for a Friendsgiving, as well,” Dunham said.



Savannah Dunham

Ferris HVACR freshman Kimberly Sikkema is another student who will be giving thanks for friends and family in both old and unique traditions.



Kimberly Sikkema

“My Thanksgiving plans are to wake up in the morning and I’m going to do the Turkey Trot, which is an 8K, a run. Then I am going to my uncle’s house for Thanksgiving lunch and then my grandma’s house for dinner,” Sikkema said.

Sikkema started doing Turkey Trots after she graduated high school with her cross-country

team.

Ferris television and digital media production junior Daniel Laroche loves to use the holiday as a time to see his family, but says he would participate in Friendsgiving if the holiday was before or after.

“But actually, Thanksgiving itself...if I don’t come home for that, there will be, like, an air strike up here taking me out,” Laroche said. “Like, that’s the level of wrath that occurs.”

Laroche says one of his fondest memories is spending the holidays with his close family, grandparents, aunts and uncles.

“They go and bring their little pug, and then we all just hang out in this garage with a wood heater. Just hanging out with my family, playing with the dog and a tiny old TV they dragged out. It’s just a good ol’ rustic time,” Laroche said.



# Frugal food

## Thanksgiving on a college budget

Being a college student is no cheap task. While holidays such as Thanksgiving can be an expensive endeavor, students can still find unique ways to celebrate the holiday with their own traditions and meals.

The recipes were found on [tasteofhome.com](http://tasteofhome.com), [delish.com](http://delish.com) and [bettycrocker.com](http://bettycrocker.com).

### MAIN DISH:

#### Cranberry Apple Pork Chops

Prep time: 15 min. plus marinating  
Cook time: 15 min.  
Serving size: 2

#### Ingredients:

- 3 tsp. ground cinnamon
- 1/2 to 1 tsp. ground nutmeg
- 1/2 tsp. pumpkin pie spice
- 2 boneless pork loin chops (4 oz. for each chop)
- 1/2 cup + 2 tbsp. unsweetened apple juice
- 1/2 cup + 2 tbsp. cranberry juice
- 1 tsp. canola oil
- 1 medium apple - peeled and chopped
- 1 cup chopped cranberries
- 1/8 tsp. salt

#### Directions:

1. Combine cinnamon, nutmeg and pie spice and rub over chops. Place pork in a large resealable bag and then add 1/2 cup of both the apple and cranberry juices. Seal the bag and turn to coat pork; refrigerate 8 hrs. or overnight.
2. Once done marinating, drain chops and discard marinade. In a large nonstick skillet coat with cooking spray and heat oil on medium heat, browning chops on each side.
3. Add apple, cranberries, salt and remaining juices, and bring to a boil. Reduce heat and simmer, covered, for 7 to 10 min. or until food thermometer reads 145 degrees when put in pork chop and apple is tender, turning once. Let stand for five minutes before serving.

### SIDE DISH:

#### Chunky Garlic Mashed Potatoes

Prep and total time: 30 min.  
Serving size: 9

#### Ingredients:

- 3 lbs. of Yukon Gold potatoes, cut into quarters
- 1 whole garlic bulb, cloves separated and peeled
- 1/2 cup butter, cubed
- 1/2 cup half-and-half cream
- 2 tbsp. prepared horseradish
- 3/4 tsp. salt
- 3/4 tsp. pepper
- Optional: fresh thyme leaves

#### Directions:

1. In a large saucepan place potatoes and garlic cloves, cover with water and bring to a boil. Reduce heat and cover, cooking for 15 to 20 min. or until potatoes are tender.
2. In a saucepan heat butter and cream, keeping warm. Drain potatoes and garlic and return to pan. Add horseradish, salt, pepper and butter mixture; mashing to desired consistency.

### DESSERT:

#### Pumpkin Pie Sugar Cookies

Prep time: 40 min.  
Total time: 1 hr. and 25 min.  
Serving size: 36

#### Ingredients:

- 1 pouch of Betty Crocker sugar cookie mix
- 4 oz. cream cheese
- 1/2 cup canned pumpkin
- 1/4 cup sugar
- 3/4 teaspoon pumpkin pie spice
- 1/2 cream cheese frosting

#### Directions:

1. Heat oven 350 degrees. In a muffin cup tray, spray 36 cups with cooking spray and make cookie dough as instructed on pouch. Using a rounded teaspoon of dough, make dough into 1 1/4-inch balls and press evenly into and onto the side of each muffin cup.
2. In a medium bowl, stir cream cheese, pumpkin, sugar and pumpkin pie spice with a whisk until blended. Once done mixing, put a teaspoon of mixture into each muffin cup, spreading slightly.
3. Bake for 8 to 12 min. or until the edges of the cookies are golden brown and the filling has set. Cool for 10 min. in pan and carefully remove to a cooling rack.
4. Apply frosting and sprinkle additional pumpkin spice mix if desired. Refrigerate cookies in a covered container.

### LEFTOVERS:

#### Turkey-Cranberry Monte Cristo

Prep and total time: 30 min.  
Serving size: 4

#### Ingredients:

- (\*can be changed to fit desire of consumer)
- 8 slices of egg\* bread
  - 3 tbsp. of Dijon mustard
  - 10 oz. of thinly sliced cooked turkey
  - 6 oz. of Gouda\* cheese, sliced thinly
  - 1/2 cup whole-berry cranberry sauce
  - 3 large eggs
  - 1/3 cup 2 percent milk
  - 1/4 teaspoon salt
  - 1/4 teaspoon pepper
  - 3 teaspoons butter
  - 3 teaspoons canola oil

#### Directions:

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees, spreading four slices of bread with mustard. Layer with turkey and cheese and spread remaining bread with cranberry sauce and place on cheese.
2. In a shallow bowl whisk eggs, milk, salt and pepper. Next, in a large skillet heat 1 to 1/2 tsp. of both butter and oil over medium heat until butter is melted. Dip two sandwiches in egg mixture; add to skillet and cook to golden brown, 2 to 3 min. on each side. Repeat with remaining sandwiches.
3. Transfer sandwiches to baking sheet and bake until cheese is melted, 4 to 5 min.

### APPETIZER:

#### Triple-Cheese Bacon Spinach Dip

Prep time: 15 min.  
Cook time: 30 min.  
Serving size: 8

#### Ingredients:

- 10 slices of bacon
- 1 cup (8 oz) block cream cheese
- 1/3 cup mayo
- 1/3 cup sour cream
- 1 tsp. garlic powder
- 1 tsp. paprika
- 1 lb. frozen chopped spinach
- 1 cup of parmesan
- 1 cup shredded mozzarella

#### Directions:

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. In a large nonstick skillet with medium heat, cook bacon until crispy, 8 minutes. Drain from grease and then chop.
2. In a large bowl stir together the cream cheese, mayo, sour cream, garlic powder and paprika, and season with salt and pepper. Add in chopped spinach, bacon, parmesan and 3/4 cup of mozzarella.
3. Put dip into a baking dish, add remaining mozzarella. Bake until golden and bubbly, 25 to 30 min.




**LIKE US ON  
FACEBOOK AT  
FERRIS STATE  
TORCH**

## 2018 DECEMBER COMMENCEMENT

**Saturday, December 15, 2018**

Ewingleben Sport Complex  
(Wink Arena)



College	Contact	Phone #	Location
Health Professions	Richelle Williams	(231) 591-2263	VFS 210
Arts & Sciences	Gayle Driggers	(231) 591-3666	ASC 3052
Business	Carri Griffis	(231) 591-2493	BUS 200
Business (graduate students)	Shannon Yost	(231) 591-2168	BUS 200
Education & Human Services	Jennie Stange	(231) 591-2700	BIS 604
Engineering Technology	Tamara Jackson	(231) 591-2890	JHN 200
DCCL	Megan Biller	(231) 591-2710	ALU 113
General Studies Graduates	Shelly VandePanne	(231) 591-2360	ASC1017

**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 November 8, 11:00 am - 4:00 pm in the University Center - Multi-purpose Rooms or starting November 8 - December 7 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 (7) seven tickets. Electronic tickets will be available for students to reserve or print starting 8:00 am November 8, 2018. Extra tickets are not distributed and lost tickets will not be replaced. **Tickets must be reserved by Thursday, December 13 at 11:59 pm.**

**Commencement Program** - Graduates must complete their online graduation application by **Friday, October 12, 2018 for their names to appear in the Fall 2018 Commencement Program** 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.

### Saturday, December 15, 2018

Time	College
10:00 am	College of Business College of Health Professions
1:30 pm	College of Arts & Sciences College of Education & Human Services College of Engineering Technology Doctorate of Community College Leadership

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



# Tat Tales | Beyond the ink



Photo by: Briana Hammontree | Torch Reporter

Ferris diagnostic sonography senior Taylor Flood shows three of her 11 tattoos.



Photo by: Briana Hammontree | Torch Reporter

Ferris pre-pharmacy junior Sara Aljajawi honors her parents by having their names written on the back of her calves.

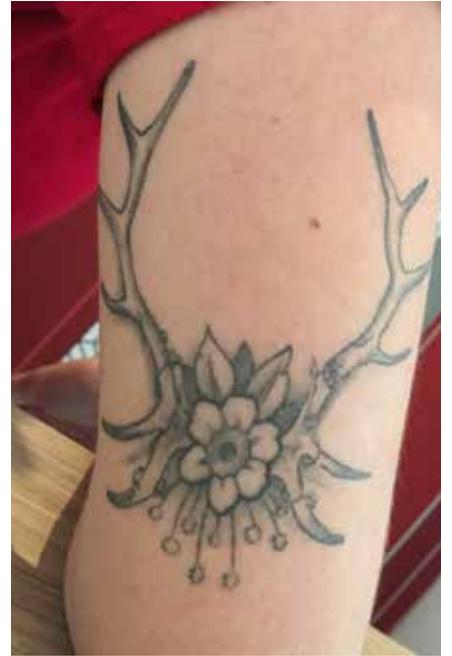


Photo by: Briana Hammontree | Torch Reporter

Ferris social work junior Tosha Cross shows her antler tattoo on her arm.

## Briana Hammontree Torch Reporter

The Pew Research Center found that 36 percent of 18 to 29 year olds have at least one tattoo, but Ferris diagnostic sonography senior Taylor Flood is proof that one is never enough.



Taylor Flood

Flood, who has eleven tattoos, never actually saw herself getting them when she was younger. She has since changed her mind and decided to get her first tattoo with her mother.

"I was 16 and it was a birthday present. It was a really amazing experience because it was my first tattoo and I'm happy I could share that moment with her. It's really what started my addiction to the art and making sure my tattoos always meant something to me," Flood said.

Of Flood's many tattoos, a mandala piece she got on her sternum stands out because of the symbolism it means to herself, whereas many of her other tattoos she got with family and friends.

"It's like my second favorite just because it's my personal story. It helps keep me grounded because I feel like I need a

string to keep me held to the here and now, and that's sort of the reason I got it, to stop me from looking so far ahead and stay focused on now because there is plenty of time to be there," Flood said.

Ferris pre-pharmacy junior Sara Aljajawi believes that even when tattoos may match someone else's or was inspired from a stencil online, that tattoo is unique to the individual due to the personal experience.

"So the cross is on my wrist, and I got it when I was 16," Aljajawi said. "When my grandpa passed away, he gave me a rosary, so I got the cross from the rosary tattooed on my wrist as a memory, but also as a religious purpose, too, because it meant a lot to me and it was something he gave to me."

Aside from her cross tattoo, Aljajawi also has two other tattoos on the back of her legs to appreciate her parents.

"I also wanted something in Arabic to incorporate my culture, so I thought what better way than to have my parents write their names in Arabic," Aljajawi said.

While tattoos were once considered a taboo form of body modification, they have since become a mainstream form of artwork today. However, some students feel that tattoos still have negative association.

Flood believes many people just misunderstand that those with tattoos are simply expressing themselves.

"It's very hard because I never thought I would be in that position where it would be, 'Well you have tattoos, so you must be crazy or so angry at the world,' and it couldn't be further from the truth," Flood said.

Because of this controversy, Ferris social work junior Tosha Cross, who has five tattoos herself, says she's mindful of her tattoos' locations for employment purposes.

"I know a lot of people who find out I have tattoos say I don't seem like the type to have any tattoos. And my question is, 'Why is there a type?' I know somewhere down the line, jobs aren't really going to care about that - I mean, we're already getting away from that, but I will still only get tattoos where I can hide them," Cross said.

Each student also shares that they've gotten at least one tattoo done at Lighttouch Tattoo in downtown Big Rapids and would recommend it to others.

"I got them at Lighttouch. I took my friend there to get her first tattoo, my friend here got a tattoo from there and I've got my piercings there. I trust the place and I've seen their work and they're really clean," Aljajawi said.



Sara Aljajawi

## Your body is a Canvas Land

10 facts about tattoos you (probably) didn't know

1 AMERICANS SPEND OVER \$1.65 BILLION ON TATTOOS ANNUALLY \$\$\$

2 EARLIER TATTOO METHODS INCLUDED: USING CHISELS, RAKES, PICKS OR SEWING A SOOT-COVERED PIECE OF THREAD THROUGH A PERSON'S SKIN

3 TATTOO IS ONE OF THE MOST MISPELLED WORDS IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE ?

4 WOMEN ARE TWICE AS LIKELY TO REMOVE THEIR TATTOOS COMPARED TO MEN ♀

5 TOP THREE PLACES FOR TATTOOS: LOWER BACK, WRIST AND FOOT 📍

6 59 PERCENT OF WOMEN HAVE TATTOOS COMPARED TO 41 PERCENT OF MEN %

7 URINE WAS ONCE USED TO MIX TATTOO COLOR WITH COAL DUST IN SOME CULTURES +

8 THE NEEDLE IN THE TATTOO PEN PIERCES 50 TO 3000 TIMES PER MINUTE WHEN GETTING A TATTOO //

9 THE MOST POPULAR TATTOOS INCLUDE ANGELS AND HEARTS ❤️

10 WITH LASER REMOVAL, BLACK INK IS THE EASIEST TO REMOVE WHEREAS GREEN AND YELLOW ARE THE MOST DIFFICULT 🩹

The above information was found at factretriever.com and tattoodo.com  
Graphic by: Hannah Way | Production Assistant

## Tat Tips Advice to ink

Briana Hammontree  
Torch Reporter

Getting a tattoo can be a difficult and costly choice, so doing your homework is essential. In an effort to provide un-inked students with tips on tattoos, those with tattoos share their advice for those who are hesitant about getting inked.

### 1. Personality matters

"It really depends on your personality because some people like cartoon drawings and stuff like that," Ferris social work junior Tosha Cross said.

### 2. Look at the artist's book

"Really do your research on where you're getting it. Even if a place has good ratings, look at their artwork because artists are really good at doing their specific type of tattoos. Like, you could have something different in mind, but they could have something that looks good for their style, and make sure you're 100 percent sure on your tattoo," Ferris pre-pharmacy junior Sara Aljajawi said.

### 3. Test the tattoo out first

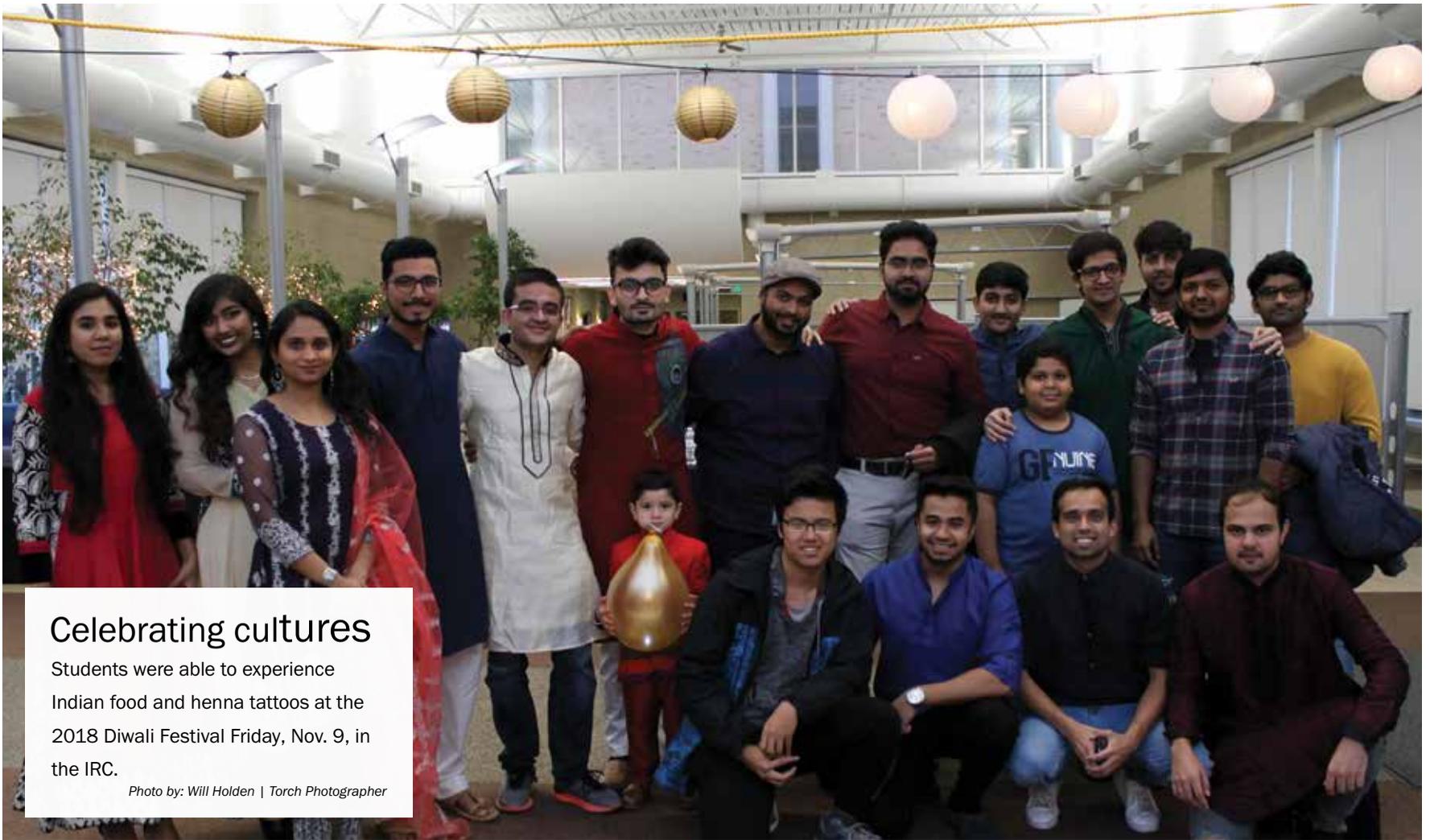
"My friend from high school would get a fake stencil and then put it on his arm. I've seen it on Pinterest too, but I've never done it, where you can transfer ink from paper to your skin for a few days and it would stay on your body. And he would do that and if he was used it for two weeks and he liked where it was at, then he would get it. But I'm more of, 'All my tattoos had a meaning at the time,' so I'm going to get it done and still will mean something to me later on," Ferris diagnostic sonography senior Taylor Flood said.

### 4. Ask for recommendations

"You should definitely look into different artists, be very open to reviews of what other people think because I've never seen really bad reviews on people. Most artists have a work book whether it is online or in the store - stuff that they've done, pieces they've worked on. And I think it's really important to look at that," Flood said.

### 5. Be willing to travel for the tattoo

"Up here, I would say Lighttouch is very good; they have pretty good artists. I've only been there once, but I know a lot of people who have gone there multiple times and their work looks really good. I don't go anywhere up here because I found an artist in Kalamazoo who I clicked with and has fair pricing, so I go there. But I really like Lighttouch up here, I liked the experience I had there, and I know most of my friends go there," Flood said.



### Celebrating cultures

Students were able to experience Indian food and henna tattoos at the 2018 Diwali Festival Friday, Nov. 9, in the IRC.

*Photo by: Will Holden | Torch Photographer*

# Behind the screens



*Photo by: Will Holden | Torch Photographer*

Members of the Media Communication Association enjoy helping out other RSOs on campus while building their DAGD and TDMP skills.

## Finding friends for life

**Marissa Russell**  
Interim Reporter

Ferris television and digital media production (TDMP) junior Megan Dileo enjoys meeting students with the same passion as her.

Dileo is secretary of Media Communication Association (MCA), a registered student organization (RSO) on campus that organizes many projects, including the Ferris Media Festival and Battle of the Bands.

"I think our RSO is about making a lot of connections around campus, helping out people with videos and different projects, graphic design projects and videos we

can help with," Dileo said. The Ferris Media Festival is an event that has people from different industries visit campus and talk to students, give seminars and teach about what it's like in their respective industry.

Aside from promoting their own events, MCA members can practice skills learned in digital animation and game design (DAGD) and TDMP courses while helping other RSOs with events and projects. Along with that, they plan movie parties, award ceremony viewings, volunteer projects, video judgments and field trips.

"We have a lot of freedom and deciding what this group is going to do and we all have our own committees," Ferris DAGD junior and MCA Vice President Erica Blackbird said.

Ferris TDMP sophomore and MCA President Seamus Hyman said that a typical meeting consists of going over current projects and discussing how to build up their two main events.

While the Ferris Media Festival and Battle of the Bands are two of the main events MCA hosts, they are also currently planning "World of Warcraft Artist's Virtual Talk with Ferris State University," an event involving Blizzard Entertainment, the creators of World of Warcraft, Overwatch and Hearthstone. During this event, animation artists will be speaking with students about what it's like working in the industry and will include a Q&A at the end. This event is open to the public 6 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 14, in IRC 121.

"I just like coming together and hanging out," Ferris TDMP sophomore and MCA media chair Kristan Kirsch said. "TDMP and DAGD aren't like the biggest schools in Ferris, and so once you can connect with people here, you have that bond for a long time."

For more information on MCA, attend their meetings or email them at ferrismca2@gmail.com.

### Contact us!

**Orgsync:** Media Communication Association

**Facebook:** facebook.com/FerrisMCA

**Email:** ferrismca2@gmail.com

**Meeting times:** 11 a.m. every other Thursday in IRC 124

### World of Warcraft Artist's Virtual Talk

**Date:** Wednesday, Nov. 14

**Time:** 6 p.m.

**Location:** IRC 120

## SPORTS

"I was a bit afraid that I decided wrong when coming here, but from the first day I arrived here, I was really happy about my decision and don't regret it at all."  
- Pia Nagel - See page 11 for story

Brendan Samuels | Sports Editor | samuelb1@ferris.edu

# New season



Photo by: Samantha Cavotta | Torch Photographer

The Ferris football team prepares for kickoff. The Bulldogs have officially completed the undefeated season and now look to start fresh in playoff play.

## Bulldog football starts at 0 - 0 as NCAA playoffs begin

**Mollie Hamelund**  
Torch Reporter

The Ferris football team has successfully completed their undefeated season, finishing the year 11-0.

The Bulldogs haven't had much trouble earning wins this season, with most of their victories coming by double-digit leads. There have been a few close battles, but no matter how much they lead by, Ferris head football coach Tony Annese knows it prepares them for the postseason.

"Regardless of final score or how close it was, prepares us for the challenges for a second season," Annese said. "We learn that if you get fast starts, it makes life a little easier on yourself."

Those fast starts have been big for Ferris, as the Bulldogs have outscored their opponents 123-27 in the first quarter this year, taking as much as a 35-point lead in the opening 15-minutes.

Fast starts have a great impact, but so does location. The Bulldogs have played six of their 11 games on the road this season, a challenge Annese believes takes a bit of learning.

"Playing on the road in a highly contested game or venue that isn't your own, you learn to grind out victories that way," Annese said. "I think you learn a lot both ways."

The defense for the Bulldogs has played a huge role in keeping other teams off the board, as well. Though the Bulldogs may not be as dominant as last year's squad, led by big names like Zach Sieler and Tavierre Thomas, they're still allowing around the same amount of points.

A year ago, the defensive unit for the Bull-

dogs allowed just 15.2 points per game and 281.1 yards per game. Fast forward to today, Ferris is allowing 18.2 points per game and 338.7 yards per game.

Ferris junior cornerback Adrian Green is part of that defensive unit for the Bulldogs and has recorded 19 tackles to this point this season.

"What's been special about this season is that we've faced adversity all season long. Those different scenarios have helped us continue to grow throughout the season," Green said.

Annese mentioned that going 11-0 is what they strive for heading into each season, but with the NCAA Division II playoffs set to begin, the Bulldogs' undefeated mark becomes an "accomplishment in the past."

Heading into the postseason, Annese reminds his team daily that going in strong and treating every game as a new season is a priority. Annese believes his team "built who they are" with their undefeated record, but the team knows higher level of competition face them.

"The home field advantage was a goal for us going into the season," Green said. "We're glad we were able to earn that privilege, but we've still got to continue to work hard every single day because it isn't easy to win games in the playoffs no matter where you're playing."

The Bulldogs will enter the NCAA Division II Super Region Three Quarterfinal as the No. 2 seed. Ferris will face Harding University (Searcy, Arkansas) noon, Saturday, Nov. 17, at Top Taggart Field.



Tony Annese



Adrian Green

## Sports Shorts

Mollie Hamelund  
Torch Reporter

### GLIAC Champs

Ferris volleyball swept all three games in their Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (GLIAC) Tournament run.

The Bulldogs are GLIAC Tournament Champions for a fifth-straight year after a 3-0 sweep of the Davenport University Panthers Saturday, Nov. 10. The Bulldogs defeated the Panthers in three sets, bringing in a total of 49 kills and 134 total attacks.



Allyson  
Cappel

Over the three-day tournament, Ferris junior outside setter Allyson Cappel lead the team with a total of 34 kills, 83 total attacks and 27 digs. Ferris sophomore outside hitter Katie O'Connell was also a big help with 13 kills and 34 total attacks in the Championship game against Davenport, totaling 35 kills and 81 total attacks on the weekend.

The Bulldogs now head to the NCAA tournament Thursday, Nov. 15. The time and opponent has not yet been determined.

### Crossover Challenge

The Ferris men's basketball team is officially underway in the 2018-19 season.

The Bulldogs are 3-1 after four straight road games, the most recent coming in the GLIAC/GMAC Crossover Challenge in West Virginia.

Ferris played in two games against West Virginia schools and came out with the victory in each. They first got an 89-70 against Davis & Elkins College Saturday, Nov. 10, and a 76-74 victory over Alderson-Broaddus University Sunday, Nov. 11.

Ferris junior point guard D'Angelo Hughes brought in most of the teams' points throughout the weekend, bringing in 18 during both games. Junior wing Greg Williams brought in 11 points during the game against Davis & Elkins while junior post Cole Walker brought in 14 points against Alderson-Broaddus.

The Bulldogs are set to play 7 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 15, at Hillsdale University.



D'Angelo  
Hughes



## Top Dawg

Austin Edwards

Photo courtesy of Kevin McDermott

Noah Poser  
Torch Reporter

Another Top Dawg award is ready to be dished out, and this week, it's headed to the gridiron.

Ferris football had a dominant 47-6 win over William Jewell College (Liberty, Missouri) Saturday, Nov. 10. It's only right that a player on the defensive side of the ball earn Top Dawg after they shut down the Cardinals.

Ferris junior defensive end Austin Edwards made an impact on the defensive side of the football against the Cardinals.

The defense as a whole was outstanding all game long, shutting down the Jewell offense and only allowing a pair of field goals all day long. Edwards was a significant part of the defensive effort as he helped to put a bow on the Bulldogs' undefeated season

with spectacular individual performance.

Edwards finished the game with three tackles, two of which went for a loss. On top of that, he added a sack. Of course, this is nothing new for Edwards, as he has performed well all season long.

In 11 games this season, Edwards leads the team with 56 total tackles, nine of which have gone for a loss, which also leads the team. He also has a team-leading five sacks, two pass breakups, one forced fumble and now a fumble return for a touchdown.

It's safe to say that Edwards likely isn't done adding to those stats, as next weekend he and the Bulldogs will continue their battle toward that elusive National Championship. Round one of the NCAA Division II Playoffs takes place Saturday, Nov. 17.

# The Nagel difference

## Freshman phenom gives Ferris soccer a new edge



Photo by: Samantha Cavotta | Torch Photographer

Ferris freshman forward Pia Nagel drives the ball down the field.

Danny Collins  
Torch Reporter

The Ferris women's soccer team is coming off an undefeated weekend as they competed in the first two rounds of the NCAA Tournament.

The Bulldogs pulled off a 2-0 victory over the No. 6 seed McKendree University (Lebanon, Illinois) Thursday, Nov. 8, and a 1-0 win over the No. 2 seed Ohio Valley (Vienna, West Virginia) Saturday, Nov. 10. The team currently has an overall record of 16-3-3 heading into the NCAA Sweet 16.

This fall, the Ferris soccer program added nine new talented athletes to their roster. Many of these freshmen have provided depth for the Bulldogs this year, and a new set of skills to help the team. However, one that has stood out tremendously has been Ferris freshman forward Pia Nagel.

In last Thursday's contest against McKendree, Nagel netted the first goal of the game and her team-high 10th goal of the season to give the Bulldogs a 1-0 lead. This would prove to be the game-winning goal in the contest and broke the program's record for all-time single-season goals scored.

In the second-round contest against Ohio Valley, Nagel also appeared in the stat book with her fourth assist of the season to Ferris junior Tia VanSullichem to put the Bulldogs ahead 1-0. Nagel is currently in second place for total goals in the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (GLIAC) with her mark of 10.

"Pia's ability to stay composed in front of the net and score goals is her biggest impact on our team. She's a very technical and crafty player," Ferris sophomore defender Maddie Dickens said.

Nagel came to Ferris from Karlsruhe, Germany, but her journey wasn't the most traditional.

"We received an email from a recruiting service with a video on Pia. You get them a lot and usually when those come through, there are a few things that don't line up. The players either aren't good enough, their grades aren't good enough, the level they play isn't good enough, or they don't have any real interest in the school. So usually you don't watch much of these videos at all,"

Ferris women's soccer head coach Andy McCaslin said. "With Pia, it was an opposite from the typical recruiting service. She was a good player, who played good competition and had good grades. We reached out and were able to speak with her directly on Skype, and all of the pieces lined up in the end, and we're really excited that she decided to be a part of what we're building here."

For any college student, transitioning from high school to college is a challenge. However, Nagel had to also play into account that she is from a different country.

"She transitioned really well into the team, and she fit in well with all of us. Having preseason and being with the team 24/7 before the school year started really



Maddie  
Dickens

helped her out I think. We were able to help her figure out where to go for all her classes, how things work at Ferris, and showed her some different places around Big Rapids," said Dickens.

Nagel attended Otto Hahn Gymnasium for high school in Germany and had had a strong passion for soccer for years.

"After some conversations with Andy, I was pretty sure that he was a coach that I can work well with, and he and the team help me to become a better soccer player," Nagel said. "For me, Ferris is the perfect size for a university, and they have different academic programs, which was appealing to me."

Nagel was one of three Bulldogs to be nominated as a member of the 2018 All-GLIAC Women's Soccer Team.

"I was a bit afraid that I decided wrong when coming here, but from the first day I arrived here I was really happy about my decision and don't regret it at all," Nagel said. "The girls on the team are great, and the level we play soccer is higher than I expected it. It's just great to be a part of this team."

Nagel and the Bulldogs will face their toughest test of the season as they head to Allendale to take on Grand Valley State University 2 p.m. Friday, Nov. 16, in the Midwest Region Championship.



## THIS WEEKEND'S SPORTS FOR FERRIS

### Thursday, Nov. 15:

- Women's Volleyball vs. Ashland (Springfield, Missouri)
- Men's Basketball at Hillsdale 7 p.m.

### Friday, Nov. 16:

- Women's Volleyball vs. TBD (Pending Thursday's outcome)
- Women's Soccer at GVSU 2 p.m.
- Women's Basketball at Southern Indiana 7 p.m.
- Hockey at Minnesota St. 8:07 p.m.

### Saturday, Nov. 17:

- Men's and Women's Cross Country at NCAA Division II Midwest Regional (Hillsdale)
- Women's Volleyball vs. TBD (Pending Thursday and Friday's outcomes)
- Football vs. Harding (Arkansas) noon
- Men's Basketball vs. Fanshawe (Ontario) 3 p.m.
- Hockey at Minnesota St. 8:07 p.m.

### Sunday, Nov. 18:

- Women's Soccer vs. TBD (Pending Friday's outcome)

# FERRIS FANTASY FOOTBALL

Team Torch extends our record to 6-4 with our best round of picks to this point, landing us a 186-110 victory over the Ferris football team this week.

The Ferris football team played William Jewell College (Jewell) in Liberty, Missouri, Saturday, Nov. 12, defeating the Cardinals in a 47-6 rout. We're used to seeing Ferris junior quarterback Jayru Campbell at the top of the scoring charts, but this week he took a backseat to the defense.

On the defensive side of the ball, the Bulldogs scored big, only allowing the Cardinals to post a field goal in each half. Altogether, the defensive side of the ball recorded three sacks, a forced fumble and a fumble return for a touchdown. That fumble return was courtesy of junior defensive end Austin Edwards and proved to be a play that would drive a dagger into any chance of a WJC comeback attempt.

Running the football was also very effective for the Dawgs, as senior running back Malik Hazzard posted two touchdowns. Three other Bulldogs found pay dirt on the ground as well, allowing the Bulldogs to control pace of play.

The Bulldogs completed their undefeated season, going 11-0, which earned them the No. 2 seed in the NCAA Division II Super Region Three. Ferris will play Harding University (Searcy, Arkansas) noon Saturday, Nov. 17, at Top Taggart Field.

We will also continue our battle with the Bulldogs until their season officially ends. Since it is now the playoffs, we are free to select any player we have already used.

Here is the next round of picks.

QB - Aaron Rodgers - Green Bay Packers: I haven't picked Rodgers yet this year. Arguably the greatest



Brendan Samuels  
Sports Editor

athlete to play the game at the QB position, he's sure to put up numbers.

RB1 - Ezekiel Elliott - Dallas Cowboys: Elliott likes to eat and we're talking yardage, not food.

RB2 - Saquon Barkley - New York Giants: Barkley is a lock for rookie of the year, slicing up defenses week after week.

WR1 - Antonio Brown - Pittsburgh Steelers: Brown is the best WR in the game right now.

WR2 - Larry Fitzgerald - Arizona Cardinals: Fitzgerald moved into the second spot in all-time receiving yardage last week. Look for him to keep chasing that No. 1 spot.

TE - Jordan Reed - Washington Redskins: Reed is a big man and Alex Smith will be looking to find him early and often.

D/ST - Los Angeles Chargers: The Chargers have surprised many with their 7-2 record. The defense has been a big help.

K - Justin Tucker - Baltimore Ravens: Tucker missed his first career extra point this season. That's one miss in 227 attempts, which is impressive, to say the least.

FLEX - Christian McCaffrey - Carolina Panthers: McCaffrey is shift between the tackles and he can catch the ball. That's dangerous for a struggling Detroit Lions defense.

## TEAM TORCH BOX SCORE

Position	Player	Points
QB	Matt Ryan	21
RB 1	Aaron Jones	32
RB 2	David Johnson	37
WR1	Michael Thomas	27
WR2	Tyreek Hill	32
TE	Trey Burton	10
D/ST	Buffalo Bills	13
K	Ryan Succop	10
FLEX	Curtis Samuel	4
Total:		186

## FERRIS STATE BOX SCORE

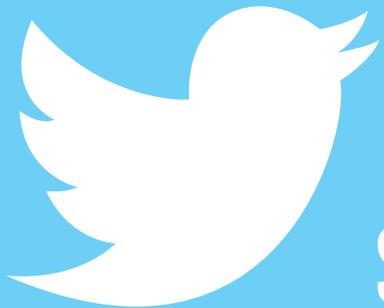
Position	Player	Points
QB	Jayru Campbell	17
RB 1	Malik Hazzard	19
RB 2	Robert Thomass III	10
WR1	Xavier Wade	11
WR2	Dion Earls	10
TE	Marcus Taylor	6
D/ST	Ferris State	18
K	Jackson Dieterle	11
FLEX	Jevon Shaw	8
Total:		110

*Ferris State University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion or creed, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, marital status, veteran or military status, height, weight, protected disability, genetic information, or any other characteristic protected by applicable State or federal laws or regulations in education, employment, housing, public services, or other University operations, including, but not limited to, admissions, programs, activities, hiring, promotion, discharge, compensation, fringe benefits, job training, classification, referral, or retention. Retaliation against any person making a charge, filing a legitimate complaint, testifying, or participating in any discrimination investigation or proceeding is prohibited.*

*Students with disabilities requiring assistance or accommodation may contact Educational Counseling & Disabilities Services at (231) 591-3057 in Big Rapids, or the Director of Counseling, Disability & Tutoring Services for Kendall College of Art and Design at (616) 451-2787 ext. 1136 in Grand Rapids. Employees and other members of the University community with disabilities requiring assistance or accommodation may contact the Human Resources Department, 420 Oak St., Big Rapids, MI 49307, or call (231) 591-2150.*

*Inquiries or complaints of discrimination may be addressed to the Director of Equal Opportunity, 120 East Cedar St., Big Rapids, MI 49307, or by telephone at (231) 591-2152; or Title IX Coordinator, 805 Campus Dr., Big Rapids, MI 49307, or by telephone at (231) 591-2088. On the KCAD Grand Rapids campus, contact the Title IX Deputy Coordinator, 17 Fountain St., Grand Rapids, MI 49503, (616) 451-2787 ext. 1113.*

FERRIS STATE UNIVERSITY



**CAN'T COME TO A FERRIS SPORTING EVENT?**

**WE'VE GOT YOU COVERED**

Follow us on twitter [@fsutorch](https://twitter.com/fsutorch) for live updates on the game!

# Exceeding expectations

*Ferris hockey freshmen having dominant start to season*



Photo by: Samantha Cavotta | Torch Photographer

Ferris sophomore defenseman Cooper Zech eyes the opponents before a faceoff.



Photo by: Samantha Cavotta | Torch Photographer

Freshman forward Hunter Wendt prepares to make a play on the puck.



Photo by: Samantha Cavotta | Torch Photographer

Freshman goalkeeper Roni Salmenkangas mans the net. Salmenkangas has become the starter while junior goalkeeper Justin Kapelmaster is out with injury.

**Michael Reedy**  
Torch Reporter

Upperclassmen have primarily dominated Ferris hockey in the past years, but for the 2018-2019 season, the freshmen are making a name for themselves.

With Ferris having significant upperclassmen in the past like Gerald Mayhew and Jared VanWormer, veteran players get more credit for the success of the team due to their experience with the team. There are still productive veterans like senior forward Corey Mackin and junior defenseman Nate Kallen, but the freshman class has seemed to find their groove and shine brightly.

The Bulldogs have seven freshmen on their roster this year: two defensemen, four forwards and one goaltender. Those seven players, excluding the goalie, have attributed 18 points out of the teams' 83 total points on the year, making up for about 22 percent of Ferris' points. The leading goal scorer for the Bulldogs, freshman forward Hunter Wendt, has tallied five goals on the year.

"It's good to see our freshmen continually show up on the score sheet," Ferris hockey head coach Bob Daniels said. "Whether it's Cooper Zech, Hunter Wendt, Justin Michaelian, when we have those kinds of contributions from our freshmen and then you add our returning players, we're pretty deep right now."

In order to talk about the freshman class, it is crucial to talk about the Finnish goaltender Roni Salmenkangas. It was uncertain coming into the year how much ice time the freshman was going to see, but once junior goaltender Justin Kapelmaster went down with an injury, Salmenkangas showed up and exceeded expectations, posting a shutout in his second ever collegiate start. Salmenkangas also earned the Western Collegiate Hockey Association (WCHA) Rookie of the Month following his performance during October.

Coming into the season, there was a lot of hype behind freshman defender Zech, who earned the WCHA Preseason Rookie of the Year before the season started. Zech is one of the nine players that has appeared in every game so far this season, where he has accounted for seven points. Zech has proved that he is versatile on defense but also has the ability to generate some offense.

"It's definitely bigger, faster, stronger, but if you can outthink them and out skate them, then it shouldn't bother you," Zech said. "We pass a hard hat around after every game and first win it goes to Wendt, next win it goes to Roni, you know the freshman class is doing their part right now, and it's working out."

The freshmen look to make an even bigger name for themselves as they travel to Minnesota to take on the third nationally-ranked Minnesota State Mavericks 8:07 pm Friday, Nov. 16, and Saturday, Nov. 17.



Bob Daniels

# OPINIONS

“The empty rituals we engage in after tragedy need to end.”  
- Marley Tucker - 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  
Alumni Building 013  
410 Oak Street  
Ferris State University  
Big Rapids, MI 49307  
fsutorch.com/letter-to-the-editor/

The Ferris State Torch welcomes comments on topics of interest to the general readership. Letters should not exceed 300 words in length and The Torch reserves the right to edit for length. Letters will not be edited for grammar, punctuation or spelling. The Torch will not print letters deemed to be libelous or obscene. All letters must be signed by their authors and include his or her phone number.

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

To advertise with the Torch, contact Bray Benner at the Pioneer Group: (231) 592-8391. bbenner@pioneergroup.com

Student media retain the same rights, responsibilities, privileges and protections afforded by the First and Fourteenth Amendments of the U.S. Constitution and under applicable state laws.

The Torch and fsutorch.com, the student newspaper and its accompanying online version focused on Ferris State University, are public forums for student expression. Student editors have the authority and responsibility to make all content decisions without censorship or advanced approval for both the print and online editions of the student newspapers.

## - TORCH STAFF -

<b>Editor in Chief</b> Megan Lewton (231) 591-5978	<b>Visual Content</b> Samantha Cavotta Taylor Davis Will Holden Kaitlyn Kirchner
<b>Production Manager</b> Sarah Massey	<b>Videographer</b> Sid Sabo
<b>Production Assistant</b> Hannah Way	<b>Reporters</b> Danny Collins Dan Deitsch Mollie Hamelund Briana Hammontree Madison Kettlewell Noah Poser Michael Reedy Landry Shorkey Grant Siddall
<b>News Editor</b> Cora Hall	<b>Interim Visual Content</b> Hunter Pariseau
<b>Lifestyles Editor</b> Alicia Jaimes	<b>Interim Reporters</b> Marissa Russell
<b>Sports Editor</b> Brendan Samuels	<b>Managing Copy Editor</b> Rebecca Bostic
<b>Opinions Editor</b> Marley Tucker	<b>Copy Editors</b> Jonny Parshall Sydney Stevens
<b>Multimedia Editor</b> Megell Strayhorn	<b>Distributor</b> Grant Siddall
<b>Web Supervisor</b> Zach Schildhouse	<b>Adviser</b> Steve Fox (231) 591-2529
<b>Office Manager</b> Alicia Jaimes	
<b>Podcast Manager</b> Zach Schildhouse	
<b>Cartoonist</b> Samuel McNeill	

## Chat with the chief

Editor in Chief, Megan Lewton

Those who know me are well-aware that I love to talk and I'm quite comfortable doing so. But sometimes, being asked to speak in front of an entire class is enough to make me want to curl up in a ball and cry.

I never really thought I would be bothered by public speaking in the slightest. I hope to be speaking in front of the entire nation as a news anchor one day, and the thought of that doesn't freak me out one bit. I confidently lead staff meetings all the time, and I like to speak up and contribute thoughts in class. As a result, I've never categorized myself as someone with a fear of public speaking.

But lately, many of my classes have required presentations, and

the thought of standing in front of a classroom and giving a ten-minute speech makes me nauseous. On presentation day, my stomach will be in knots as I await for my name to be called. And after the deed is done, I sit at my desk and judge my own actions.

For days, I'll think about the words that fell out of my mouth in front of my peers, and I'll question everything I said. Did that make sense? Did I pronounce that word right? Was I entertaining? Can I just keep my mouth closed for the rest of my life?

It can be painful to speak in front of large, unfamiliar crowds. You don't know your audience, so you won't know how they will react to your content. Furthermore,

## Public freaking

unless it's a class within one's major where everyone is engaged in the topic, a significant amount of viewers likely do not care about the content and won't even be listening, pressuring the speaker to try and be more entertaining.

These reasons and many more are why I've recently had issues speaking in front of my classmates. However, the National Social Anxiety Center confirms that I am not alone, as glossophobia, or the fear of public speaking, is the most common phobia experienced by many. About 73 percent of people have glossophobia and are affected by this fear regularly.

But here's the thing: I don't have this fear where it matters. I love

meeting new people and talking to others in public. I could stand in the front of a room and talk all day about my chosen career field, or any issue or topic that I am passionate about. I'm never afraid to speak in a work environment in front of my coworkers.

When I encounter public speaking in real life, it's a breeze. Issues arise when I'm given a topic - often the same topic as the rest of the class - and I'm forced to research and speak about something that I care little about.

Personally, I don't know how much it actually helps students to make them speak publicly about just anything. Sure, it will help

Speaking | see page 15

# Empty promises echo loudest

## Gun violence keeps happening and nothing changes

California may have some tough gun laws, but that didn't stop the latest mass shooting on Nov. 7 that left 12 people dead in Thousand Oaks from happening. It was the 307th mass shooting in 311 days, and while that seems like a lot, it's on par with other years in America. When did that become unsurprising?

I've been increasingly annoyed by the statement of "thoughts and prayers." I know that phrase can be a way to express sympathy when there is no other way, but it feels hollow now, especially when it comes from people in power who can actually help. Doing nothing is getting nothing done.

Alternative musician Jordan Benjamin, known as Grandson, wrote "Thoughts and Prayers" after being encouraged by teenagers who survived the Valentine's Day shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School earlier this year. I think his lyrics are especially powerful concerning this topic: "No thoughts, no prayers, can bring back what's no longer there. The silent are damned. The body count is on your hands."

According to USA Today, the Thousand Oaks shooter, Ian David Long, posted on Instagram during the shooting saying, "I hope people call me insane (two smiley face emojis) would that just be a big ball of irony? Yeah...I'm insane, but the only thing you people do after these shootings is 'hopes and prayers'...or 'keep you in my thoughts.'"

"Thoughts and prayers" has



Marley Tucker  
Opinions Editor

become the stock phrase of catastrophes, to the point that it is being mocked and I am sick of it. The empty rituals we engage in after tragedy need to end. Rather than fighting over gun control as an issue that never moves forward, we should be proactive instead of reactive. Let's not wait until the next mass shooting to engage. The way it is now, who knows if the next shooting could happen in Michigan or here on campus? While mass shootings are the smallest percentage of gun-related incidents compared to suicide and other circumstances, it has certainly taken a stranglehold here, and it seems like every day we see more incidents like Thousand Oaks on our newsfeeds. How many deaths will it take for real change to happen?

I refuse to believe that this is our new normal. From classrooms, to places of worship, to newsrooms, yoga studios, concerts and nightclubs, it seems like no place in America is truly safe or sacred anymore. I am so fatigued every time I read the names of people who died. This is not a faceless atrocity, and I'm scared that I have to check in to see if my friend is alive on Facebook when incidents happen. No one is exempt from tragedy, and my heart breaks for the families of survivors of the



Photo courtesy of Apple Music

Musician Grandson wrote "Thoughts and Prayers" after the mass shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School that killed 17 people and injured 17 others.

Las Vegas shooting who learned that their loved ones weren't so lucky the second time around. If it were either of my brothers who died in a mass shooting, I don't think I could cope. We need to do right by these families and all people affected by gun violence, and demand that things change.

I believe that the gun control debate spews toxic rhetoric from politicians that doesn't produce enough results despite most Americans agreeing that regulations need to change in some way. They repeat the usual dance without following through, and the fervor drops off until the next

shooting. I feel like we do nothing after a mass shooting because certain gun legislation measures challenge our national identity. What is it worth?

Gun culture in the U.S. is something that I continually struggle to understand, but that doesn't mean I want to infringe on others rights. There is a middle ground, and we really need to take a hard look at our culture that produces circumstances that permit this to happen.

Next time a politician writes "thoughts and prayers," hold them accountable to act on it.



Cartoon by: Samuel McNeill | Cartoonist

### Speaking

Continued from page 14

if they can choose their own topic, particularly one related to their field or their passions, but giving students a rigid topic that is irrelevant to them and making them discuss it for an extended period of time really doesn't help anyone.

Don't get me wrong: I think public speaking skills are really valuable in the workplace, and in life in general. However, I think there's a way to assign presentations that won't push anxious students over the edge and will benefit them in the long-run.

For starters, let them pick their own topic, or even their own subtopic within a broader assignment. When people are talking about their passions, they tend to be more confident and knowledgeable, performing at their full potential. Also, offer assistance to those with a fear of public speaking. Let them know that you understand and that you're willing to help them

get through it.

And for those who have glossophobia - whether you're like me and it's situational, or it affects you all the time - try and remember that so many people are also afraid of public speaking. I can also guarantee that your viewers aren't judging you as harshly as you think they are.

Everyone in the class has to present, so you're all in the same boat. Plus, the audience probably won't remember the quality of your speaking for more than an hour afterwards. Think about it: of all the presentations you've seen, how many do you really remember? Chances are, of the ones you remember, you remember them because they were great, not because they were poor or mediocre.

The fear of public speaking affects more people than you may realize. Let's adapt assigned speeches to strongly benefit the speaker, rather than causing them to panic and reap no benefits. And to the others who experience this dread with me, we will overcome this. You are not alone.

## Driving the high-way

*Weed is about to be legal, please don't drive high*

As everyone knows by now, Proposal 1 passed and soon Michiganders will be able to use recreational marijuana. As you and your friends celebrate the end of the pot prohibition, remember that it's not only against the law to drive high, but it's incredibly dangerous.

I know a lot of people who say they drive fine when they're high, or some even bold enough to say that their driving is better after they've smoked a little weed. These are the same excuses people used for driving drunk, excuses that we no longer tolerate for alcohol and shouldn't for marijuana either. No matter how you look at it, cannabis is a mind-altering substance — if it weren't, you wouldn't have any reason to smoke it. If you're high, your ability to drive safely is impaired. Period.

This isn't an anti-marijuana rant. I wasn't as highly opinionated on Proposal 1 as many people were, but I was highly informed about the proposal and supported it with my vote. Great things can come out of legalization including increased tax revenue, increased tourism and fewer people going through our court system for minor drug infractions. You are fooling yourself, though, if you believe that there are no negatives involved in legalization. However, if we are careful with our cannabis consumption, Michigan can be a shining example of how those negatives don't have to be the norm.

The numbers don't lie: in states where recreational marijuana has been legalized, the number of traffic



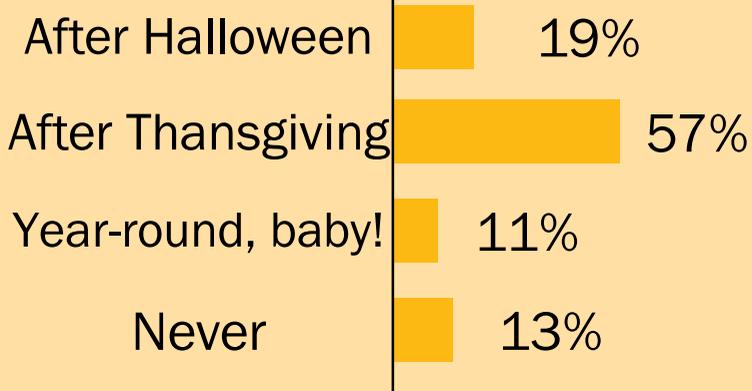
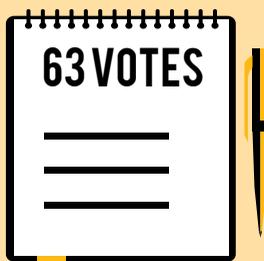
Grant Siddall  
Torch Reporter

accidents and deaths related to marijuana use has skyrocketed. Driving under the influence is a severe problem, but we can be part of the change by knowing not to drive after smoking or eating edibles, and by not letting our friends drive high either. It isn't always an easy confrontation when you have to tell your friend not to get behind the wheel, especially if you have to take their keys. But I promise it is better than them getting a DUI or causing a car crash that could be fatal to them or others.

Enjoy the legalization of marijuana to the fullest and smoke all you want, but remember: just because driving high might not be as dangerous as driving drunk, it's still dangerous, even for the most experienced smokers. Call a friend for a ride or a taxi, or if you have to, wait it out for a few hours before driving. By not driving high, we can save lives and help Michigan be a better example for the benefits of legalization.

## TORCH POLL RESULTS

When is it acceptable to listen to Christmas music?



Stay updated on campus news by liking us on Facebook or following us on Twitter



Graphic by: Sarah Massey | Production Manager

# Can you hear me now?

*Put down the phones and pick up the conversation*

Before I hop on my little soapbox, I would like to say that smartphones have to be one of the best inventions known to my generation. I don't know about everyone else, but I love my phone. In the palm of my tiny hand, I have immediate access to the vast expanse of the internet and the cure to homesickness is only a phone call away. What else could I possibly ask for in such a small device? Nothing, except maybe a face-to-face conversation without the distraction of our tiny boxes.

Other than squeaky shoes on uncarpeted floors, my biggest pet peeve is definitely someone on their phone while they are having a conversation with another person right in front of them. I understand that some people are able to multi-task, but it is so rude to mess around on a cell phone while talking to someone.

Saying "I'm listening" and "I can multi-task" does not excuse or allow anyone to stay on their phone while participating in a conversation. This doesn't mean that you have to drop everything you are doing to talk to a person, but it does mean that you should eventually put your phone down after you have acknowledged the presence of the other person.

I can't tell you how many times I've felt like I was being an inconvenience to someone only for them to say that they were listening, but chose to stay on their phone. It would have been nice if people said they needed a minute and then put their phones down instead of half listening to the conversation. I, personally, am unable to multitask between Angry Birds and a full-blown conversation.



Sydney Stevens  
Copy Editor

I can't say how many times I see this happening on campus among our peers. Smartphone addiction is a real issue many of us face. According to Pew Research, 90 percent of adults have a cell phone, and 29 percent of cell owners describe it as "something they can't imagine living without."

I understand that it is so easy to fall into the depths of our phones: so easy that it can be hard to climb back out and have conversations with others. I also am aware that I have been guilty of this on more than one occasion. It would just be nice to be able to have dinner with my friends and not make awkward and short-lived conversation because the majority of us are on our devices.

How can we find the right balance between getting the most out of technology and not letting it get the best of us? We can download apps that limit our usage and set specific times to put down our phones. At the end of the day, however, a surefire way to prevent clocking out of conversations is to be conscious of our presence. Memories with our families and friends outlast our media quick fix. Everyone is guilty of this stupid little habit, but if we could all hold ourselves accountable, we could all start to do better.

*Torch file graphic*

# The holiday spirit is not for everyone



People act fake during the Christmas season

Deck the halls with meaningless words and gifts that you'll forget within a week. Call me a cynic, but that's what I think of when this time of year rolls around.

I don't know what it is, but this time of year is just the worst to me. It might be the weather or that it's the same time as when finals come around, but there's just something that makes me dread the holiday season.

I know I sound like the Grinch when I say this, but Christmas is my least favorite holiday for a few different reasons. I know people are going to just automatically assume that maybe I had a bad experience growing up or that I didn't get a present that I wanted, but honestly, it's nothing like that. I have had a great life growing up and even being so far from home (I'm from Oregon), I have always hated this time. My parents did a fantastic job raising me and have given me more than I have ever needed for my happiness, and for that I am genuinely grateful.

I have never had the holiday spirit. I can't remember a time I was ever super excited about Christmas. Even when I was younger, having a few weeks off for school was nice but just seemed unnecessary to me. I guess maybe I don't truly understand the whole meaning behind it.

I mean, people are happy to "give and receive" gifts to and from people they love, but why is it such a big deal when we have birthdays? If anything, the holiday feels fake. People start being nice this time of year by tipping more at restaurants or doing "random acts of kindness" in public like they want to get on the nice list.

I knew this girl in middle school



Mollie Hamelund  
Torch Reporter

who was the biggest bitch to me throughout the years until December hit, when she would become unbelievably "nice." She'd want to sit with me at lunch or even share her snacks with me. Showing her true colors, the rest of the year she would make fun of me to her friends or say "naughty" things. Santa is watching, indeed.

I feel like she just wanted me to give her a gift. This went on for about two years, and in eighth grade, she finally confronted me about it. She asked me why I never gave her anything for Christmas and I told her that she was one of the nastiest people I had ever met and didn't deserve anything. Of course, she got mad, but it just made me realize how many other people do that to be greedy. Even though that was a long time ago, I have seen this inauthentic behavior reflected in others.

I understand that the whole meaning of Christmas isn't about gifts and is instead about spending time with the people you love and being thankful for what you have. However, that mentality should follow us and reflect in our actions all year long and not for the length of a Christmas sale at big box stores.

As I grow older, family gatherings have become more important to me. Seeing family from across the country is a gift in itself, and I'm thankful for the opportunity to see them, even in spite of capitalism wrapped in a bow with fancy wrapping paper.



TUNE IN TO OUR PODCAST WITH HOST ZACH SCHILDHOUSE

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

