



HERE'S WHAT'S INSIDE

LOVE FOR LITERACY

Do you have a passion for all things creative? Read about how students are conquering their fears and showcasing their writing abilities for National Poetry Month.

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CREATING A LEGACY

Ferris hockey head coach Bob Daniels has helped the team accomplish a lot since beginning in the position in 1992. See more about his life in and out of the rink.

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# Declining diversity

## Ferris' international student population continues to decrease



Graphic by: Sarah Massey | Production Manager

**Grant Siddall**  
Torch Reporter

Diversity is one of Ferris' core principles, but as the university continues to lose international students, some people are worried about its subsequent loss of cultural diversity.

Since 2015, Ferris has experienced a significant decrease in international student enrollment. In 2015, the university had 536 international students. That number has since decreased to just 238 in 2018, a 56% loss over three years.

As overall enrollment declines at Ferris, the decrease in international students is responsible for 20% of the loss.

The decline can be attributed to a variety of factors, both financial and political.

Dr. Piram Prakasam, Executive Director of International Education at Ferris said the decision to make some graduate degrees popular amongst international students fully online, such as information security and intelligence (ISI), along with reduced funding has contributed greatly to the decrease.

"If you are an international student here in the United States, you can only be here as a regular on-campus student, not an online student. Meaning you can't have a degree in the United States by being an international student residing in the US taking completely online classes, which means students coming to the graduate ISI program are not qualified to

be here because our program is online," Prakasam said.

Prakasam said reduced funding has changed the way Ferris must market to international students. Previously, Ferris paid for education consultants in foreign countries to recruit students. Without having funding to pay consultants, international recruiting has been forced to improvise their recruiting tactics, contributing to the decline.

Indian Ferris heating, ventilating, air conditioning and refrigeration (HVACR) senior Anirudh Baliga found Ferris through an education consultant and said he is concerned about the lack of diversity stemming from the loss of international students.

"It's a shame that there isn't as much diversity as there has been. It's good exposure for the students that are coming here from different countries, but it's also good exposure for the people already here to interact with people from other countries," Baliga said. "It's a loss for international and domestic students because it's a good cultural exchange experience."

International enrollment has also declined nationally, though at a much slower

**Diversity** | see page 3



Piram Prakasam

## FERRIS INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ENROLLMENT

**Percentage of student body that is international:**

2015:	4%
2016:	3%
2017:	2%
2018:	2%

**Saudi Arabian enrollment by year:**

2015:	205
2016:	145 (-60)
2017:	88 (-57)
2018:	51 (-37)
Total decline:	154 (75%)

**International enrollment by year:**

2015:	536
2016:	390 (-146)
2017:	298 (-92)
2018:	238 (-60)
Total decline:	298 (55.6%)

**Indian enrollment by year:**

2015:	121
2016:	58 (-63)
2017:	19 (-39)
2018:	16 (-3)
Total decline:	105 (87%)

The above information was gathered from the Ferris Fact Book.

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“When a parent or prospective student walks into any of our facilities, there’s just no place like it.” - Jeffrey Carner - See below for story

Megan Lewton | Editor in Chief | lewtonm1@ferris.edu



Photo by: Will Holden | Torch Photographer

An expansion of the Swan Technical Arts Building is completed and offers new facilities and laboratory space to students in engineering fields. The project was proposed in 2013, with the Michigan state government approving funds for it in 2016.

# Spreading its wings

## Swan Technical Arts Building Annex enters second semester

Dan Deitsch  
Torch Reporter

Ferris' Swan Technical Arts Building enters its second semester of use after receiving an extensive expansion to its annex wing.

“It more or less just expands our lab capabilities,” College of Engineering Technology Interim Dean Richard Goosen said. “It gives us more space and better space than we had before. There’s more electrical access, more air, more light in their labs.”

The recent expansion extended the Swan Building out to approximately 22,600 square feet, giving students and faculty expanded laboratory space and better access to the latest welding and manufacturing technology. The welding engineering technology program received seven new laboratory spaces equipped with new welding equipment and technology.

“It gives us more opportunity for students to get involved,” Manufacturing Engineering Technology Director Mark Dunneback said. “Before, we had people working around five machines. Now, they can work around eight or ten machines.”

The Welding Engineering Technology program has expanded its incoming freshmen class size from 40 students to 60 students as a result of the new Swan Building expansion.

“We have an extensive waiting list for the program, so that helped alleviate that a little bit,” Welding Engineering Technology Program Coordinator Jeffrey Carney said. “That allows us to expand our enrollment at the upper levels of the enrollment.”

The state of Michigan helped fund a portion of the Swan Building expansion as well. Every year, Ferris approaches the Michigan state government to acquire funds through the state capital outlay project. These funds can be used for renovations and expansions to campus buildings. Ferris originally proposed the \$30 million Swan Building expansion project in February 2013, with Michigan’s state government approving the funds in 2016.

“It dragged on for a little while,” Carney said. “It hasn’t just been a project since 2013; it’s been a project for the last 30 years to grow and continue the growth in different areas to better serve the students.”

The expansion initially opened at the start of the Fall 2018 semester and will fully wrap up construction at the start of the Fall 2019 semester.

“There have been some adjustments and growing pains with people moving around,” Dunneback said. “It’ll be a lot cleaner next year because all of the work will be done, and we’ll be able to settle in.”

A ribbon-cutting ceremony will be held at the Swan Technical Arts Building Friday, April 26. The ceremony will run from 1 – 3 p.m. and is open to the public. Michigan Senator Darwin Booher, who helped the College of Engineering Technology secure the funds for the expansion, will be in attendance.

“Students are happy to be here and at Ferris in general,” Carney said. “Whether it’s welding or mechanical, they like the new annex. It’s made recruiting easier, also. When a parent or prospective student walks into any one of our facilities, there’s just no place like it.”

## 99 problems but a test ain’t one

Students can apply to Ferris without submitting standardized test scores

Landry Shorkey  
Torch Reporter

A new program has allowed students to apply to Ferris without submitting ACT or SAT scores for consideration.

Starting Fall 2019, Ferris will be piloting a test-optional admission policy, which bases student enrollment on high school grade point average (GPA) and written essays.

The program will be piloted for four years. If successful, the change may become permanent.

“Ferris will conduct continual assessment to ensure that students admitted under the program perform at levels consistent with those of students admitted under regular Ferris admission practices,” Ferris Dean of Enrollment Services Kristen Salomonson said.

However, some students are not eligible to apply under the test-optional admissions program.

For some students, test scores are an essential measurement of college readiness, Salomonson said. Therefore, international students, homeschooled students, statewide and online students, and student athletes are not eligible for the program. In addition, eligible applicants must have a high school GPA of at least 3.0.

Currently, there are more than 250 students who have applied under the test-optional program, with 115 having been accepted to Ferris.

The program is built to accommodate up to 450 students — which is about one-quarter of a typical freshman class — for each year of the pilot, Salomonson said.



Shannon Hunt

Some students agree with the idea behind the program but believe a few adjustments to the criteria are necessary.

Ferris forensic biology and biotechnology junior Shannon Hunt said ACT and SAT scores should not necessarily be considered by college admissions, but that there still needs to be more factors than only GPA examined.

“I think that when you apply here and you’re going off of GPA and things that they have done in high school, and then just taking essay questions, I don’t think that really determines if a person is truly ready for college,” Hunt said. “Some people can do extremely well in high school just because it was easy for them, and then they come to college and they have a harder time.”

Other students agree with the program completely and believe GPA is a fair basis of a student’s academic knowledge.

“It’s not unfair. Things change. I know change is difficult, but it doesn’t matter. The reason we make changes is we find faults in certain areas, and then we fix them,” Ferris nursing senior Samson Cytacki said.



Samson Cytacki

There is not yet clear data on how the program will affect student enrollment.

“One thing we can say at this point in the year is that we have admitted students under this program who would have been rejected previously because of their test scores,” Salomonson said.

According to FairTest, the National Center for Fair and Open Testing, Ferris is one of more than 1,000 four-year colleges and universities that are no longer considering ACT or SAT scores.

“There are many students who feel that their standardized test scores do not reflect their abilities. They may have done extremely well in high school, but the results of a test taken on a single day can have a negative impact,” Salomonson said.

# WEEKLY WORLD NEWS

Catch up on news around the globe

**Megan Lewton**  
Editor in Chief

## Australia

New legislation passed in Australia would hold social media companies accountable for violent or hateful material contained on their platforms. The companies could expect fines, and the executives of the companies could face jail time for failure to remove violent content from their websites. The legislation results from the Facebook Live video of the New Zealand gunman attacking two mosques in March. Some social media and technology companies are against the proposal, stating it may be considered censorship of free speech.

Original article by Damien Cave, April 3, 2019. *The New York Times*.

## Kampala, Uganda

An American woman was kidnapped while visiting a popular safari destination in Uganda and held for a \$500,000 ransom. The woman, Kim-

berly Sue Endicott, was with her Ugandan tour guide, Jean-Paul Mirenge Remezo, when they were kidnapped by a group of gunmen believed to be linked to Hutu militias involved in the 1994 Rwandan genocide. The gunmen used Endicott's cellphone to demand the ransom for their return.

Original article by Joseph Goldstein, April 3, 2019. *The New York Times*.

## Seoul, South Korea

The South Korean government declared a national disaster after wildfire spread across the northeastern coast of the nation. About 4,000 people evacuated their homes and returned the next day as tens of thousands of firefighters, police officers and soldiers worked to put out the largest fires. At least one person died in the disaster and an estimated 1,297 acres of land burned in the wildfires, which is equivalent to more than 730 soccer fields.

Original article by Choe Sang-Hun, April 5, 2019. *The New York Times*.

## Diversity

Continued from page 1

rate.

From the 2016-17 to 2017-18 academic years, international enrollment at American universities declined 7% according to insiderrhighered.com.

The overall decline can be attributed to a variety of factors, some of them political.

President Donald Trump's travel ban has not seemed to affect international enrollment, as Iran is the only country impacted with a significant amount of students studying in America. The number of Iranian international students has actually increased nationally by 1.5%.

At Ferris, student enrollment from Iran has grown since 2015 from zero to one.

However, many experts believe the increasing difficulty of obtaining a visa along with added punishments for visa violations have deterred international students from seeking education in America.

The political aspect of the decline goes beyond American politics. Saudi Arabia sends the fourth most international students to America. Due to governmental changes reducing the amount of scholarships given to international students, the country has seen a major decline in students seeking foreign education. This has greatly impacted international enrollment at Ferris.

In 2015, Ferris had 205 Saudi Arabian students, totaling 38% of the international student body. In 2018, Ferris had just 51 Saudi Arabian students, totaling 21% of the international student population.

The loss of Saudi Arabian students has accounted for more than half of Ferris' overall international student decrease and is something Ferris President

David Eisler addressed with the Michigan House of Representatives in March.

"We have also seen a significant decline in the number of international students coming to Ferris State University, particularly from Saudi Arabia, which was our largest group of international students. This is due to a combination of factors, most notable the Saudi government scaling back scholarship programs fund overseas education, and our own country's immigration stance and travel bans," Eisler said.

Ferris has also seen a steep decline in Indian students. During the 2015-16 academic year, Ferris had 121 students from India, its second largest source nation to Saudi Arabia. By 2018, that amount had decreased by 87% to 16%.

Many Indian students were recruited to Ferris through education consultants, and many of them attended Ferris for the ISI graduate program. Because that program is now fully online, it has greatly reduced the amount of Indian students seeking to attend Ferris.

Prakasam said because master's degree programs have so many online classes, for now and the immediate future, the international education office is focusing their recruiting on undergraduate programs that have vacancies for international students to fill.

"We have identified 12 to 15 programs and we primarily recruit for those programs by traveling around and meeting students in high schools and education fairs without working with education consultants. Which means the staff is traveling around the world recruiting for Ferris and doing electronic marketing. But it takes time. It's like changing the direction of a ship and it's going to take a few more years to really shift the direction," Prakasam said.

## Darren Smith trial pushed back

Sexual assault trial remanded back to district court

**Cora Hall**  
Sports Editor

After months of waiting, the trial date for former Ferris ice hockey player Darren Smith has been remanded from Circuit Court back to District Court for a preliminary hearing 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 16.

The date for the four-day trial was originally set for Feb. 12 and was then pushed back to April 9 for undisclosed reasons. The trial will no longer begin April 9 as expected.

According to Captain Gary Green of the Ferris Department of Public Safety, Smith originally waived his right to a preliminary hearing on the stipulation that a plea deal would be worked out prior to the start of the trial. However, the prosecution and Smith's attorneys have not agreed on a plea deal and have decided to go to a preliminary exam to determine if the evidence is sufficient to go to trial, which will be held in district court.

Smith has been formally charged with three

counts of criminal sexual conduct in the first degree after being arrested July 12, 2018. The charges involve causing personal injury to a woman who was incapacitated or physically helpless with oral and digital penetration. The victim of all three charges is the same woman and have remained the same since the arraignment, according to Mecosta County Chief Assistant Prosecutor Amy Clapp. The victim is a Ferris student and is over the age of 16, but her name is being kept anonymous to protect her privacy.

With the exception of two weeks in October for allegedly violating the terms of his bond, Smith has been out on bond with a GPS tether. Requirements of his bond include not leaving the state, consuming alcohol or illegal controlled substances or having any contact with the victim, her residence or place of work.

Since Smith's arraignment, he has been removed from the Ferris ice hockey roster and is no longer a student at Ferris.

## - ON THE RECORD -

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

### Gotta pay the bills somehow

**Cora Hall**  
Sports Editor

#### Knock first, please

March 30, 5:48 p.m., a Ferris student was having issues with four former friends — also students — and the four entered the subject's North Hall room uninvited. The students had a dispute but the argument did not get physical. The student who lived in the room wanted to press charges against the four students and they were referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

#### Gotta pay the bills somehow

April 4, 1:49 a.m., an officer

was patrolling Lot 19 and observed two people sitting in a vehicle. The officer made contact with the subjects and learned the passenger, who was under the age of 21, was in possession of marijuana. The subject was a student and had marijuana packaged for distribution as well as edibles. The student admitted to being a small level dealer. The officer issued a citation for civil infraction for marijuana possession and referred the student to the Office of Student Conduct.

Ferris Department of Safety issued 383 tickets from March 31 to April 6 totaling \$6,465.

## NEWS BRIEFS

**Megan Lewton**  
Editor in Chief

#### "Can I Kiss You?"

Learn about consent at "Can I Kiss You?" 6 p.m. Thursday, April 11, in Williams Auditorium. The event is hosted by Entertainment Unlimited, Greek Life and Step Up! For more information, contact Entertainment Unlimited at EU@ferris.edu.

#### Fallen Officer 5K Run/Walk

Walk or run in the Fallen Officer 5K Sunday, April 14, at Northend Riverside Park. Registration begins at 11:30 a.m., followed by a memorial service at 1 p.m. The race will begin after the memorial service. All proceeds for the event, which is hosted by Lambda Alpha Epsilon, will benefit the Jessica Nagel-Wilson Scholarship Fund. For more information, contact Andrew Maas at (810) 406-9534 or maasa3@ferris.edu.

#### Film Screening: Crazy Rich Asians

Enjoy a screening of "Crazy Rich Asians" 6 p.m. Tuesday, April 16, in IRC 120. The event is coordinated by the Asian Student Organization and sponsored by the Office of Multicultural Student Services. The movie is free to attend and open to the public. For more information, contact the Office of Multicultural Student Services at omss@ferris.edu.

## Torch Corrections

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# Big Event's big revival

*The Big Event returns after 2018 cancellation*

**Landry Shorkey**  
Torch Reporter

After a weather-related cancellation last year, Ferris' annual Big Event is making its big comeback.

The day of service in which volunteers do yard work for Big Rapids residents is set to commence Saturday, April 13. The Big Event was canceled last year with no reschedule date due to hail.

Ferris criminal justice and psychology senior and Director of the Big Event Tess Strasser said last year's cancellation offered a big effect on this year's planning process.

"Everyone who was on the list last year got a spot for this year. So around December or January, we called all the homeowners to see if they wanted to come back out this year, along with getting new homeowners signed up," Strasser said.



Tess Strasser

Organizers, volunteers and local residents were all upset about the event having to be called off.

"We put in a lot of time and effort. We do this many hours of the week. Then the day of, we called all 250 homeowners to let them know we weren't coming," Strasser said. "People were upset, but I mean, they could look out their windows and see it was hailing last year, so it was very understandable."

Despite the hurdle, the 2019 Big Event is expected to return better than ever for its thirteenth year. Students who sign up will receive free breakfast, lunch and T-shirts.

In addition, volunteers will be treated to raffle prizes and performances by the Ferris Cheer Team, Ferris' a capella group Vibrato Vibes and a keynote speaker. A DJ from Bulldog Radio will also be present.



Torch file photo

After its cancellation in 2018 due to hail, the Big Event will take place Saturday, April 13. The event recruits volunteers to perform yard works for Big Rapids residents.

Ferris biology senior Simi Kaur will be participating in the event, and believes it was well-organized in previous years.

"I think it's put on really well. I think everything is really well organized. There's always open spots for RSOs. We can have outside people sign up for our RSO and come help us out if we don't have enough participants," Kaur said.

"The community just really needs it. We have a lot of people in the community with disability, or children with disability, or that are older or veterans that just can't do basic yard work themselves. So it's really nice to be able to give back," Strasser said.

With 200 houses approved for yard work and 600 volunteers currently registered, it is not called the "Big Event" for nothing, but organizers are still hoping for more participants.

There is no deadline before the event's date to sign up for the event. Students can sign up on Orgsync, at a table in the

University Center or arrive early on the morning of the event to register.

Student volunteers should arrive to Top Taggart Field at 8 a.m. The event is expected to conclude at 2 p.m.

## Big Event University Center Table Dates:

Monday: 10 a.m. — noon

Wednesday: 6 — 8 p.m.

Friday: 11 a.m. — 2 p.m.

# Sexual assault awareness



Photo by: Hunter Pariseau | Torch Photographer

Mecosta County Prosecuting Attorney Brian Thiede spoke to students about sexual assault awareness and the resources available to survivors Wednesday, April 3, in the University Center.

## Five Star Panel event addressed sexual assault resources on and off campus

**Madison Kettlewell**  
Torch Reporter

"Sexual assault can be damaging. Don't be afraid to ask for help," Ferris social work sophomore Stephanie Wilson said.

In honor of Sexual Assault Awareness Month, the Ferris Social Work Association educated students about sexual assault at a five-star panel Wednesday, April 3.

The objective of the event was to show students on campus what resources are available to them, and to show what the process of dealing with and prosecuting an assault looks like, according to Ferris social work senior and Social Work Association President Nicholas Hadley.

"People should bring light to it so healing can happen, and people can also just feel like they have a space to discuss what's going on," Wilson said.

Speakers at the event included Ferris Assistant Professor of Social Work Peter Hector, Ferris Title IX Coordinator Kaitlin Zies, Ferris Department of Public Safety Director Bruce Borkovich, Women's Information Services, Inc. (WISE) Sexual Assault Advocate Denae Langan, Mecosta County Prosecuting Attorney Brian Thiede and Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner Shannon Behling.

"When it happens, very often people just want to forget that it happened. They're ter-

rified to speak out about it for a lot of reasons," Hector said. "The more we talk about it, the more people come aware about it, the less isolated people will feel, the less alone they are, the more apt they are to actually get the help that they need."

According to the 2018 Ferris Campus Climate survey, which surveyed 1,518 students, 17% reported unwanted sexual experiences. For women, that number was higher, reaching 20%.

"It's so prolific, and we don't talk about it enough. There's still so many misperceptions around and that's why we did this, to demystify the process. It's not like we will eliminate sexual assault, but we need to keep talking about it," Hector said.

When a sexual assault occurs, the survivor has five days after the assault occurred to get a forensic rape kit done at the local hospital. At that point, the survivor does not have to decide if they want to prosecute. The hospital will hold onto the kit for 18 months to give the assault survivor time to decide how they wish to proceed.

Afterward, if the survivor wishes to take their forensic kit to the police station, the station will hold on to it indefinitely, whether the survivor wants to pursue further action or not.

There are different resources available to

**Sexual Assault** | see page 5

# Big decisions, personal experiences



Photo by: Taylor Davis | Torch Photographer

Ferris pre-pharmacy freshman Robin Rodriguez helped prospective students experience life as a Bulldog as a host of the Crimson and Gold program.

## Finding the perfect match

**Briana Hammontree**  
Torch Reporter

Personalized tours are becoming a signature event for the future of Ferris' campus.

Established in the spring of 2018, the Ferris Crimson and Gold program matches incoming admitted students with current students who have the same major as them.

"We want students to be a bit more comfortable on whether they're coming here or whether they're going to a different university. We obviously want them to come to Ferris, but we want Ferris to be a good fit for them, too," Ferris Crimson and Gold Program Co-Coordinator and Admissions Recruiter Arielle Miller said.

Incoming admitted students spend the day with their "matched" student, learning more about their program and campus life.

Before Ferris pre-pharmacy freshman Robin Rodriguez was a "bone-a-fide" Bulldog, she had participated in the Crimson and Gold program her senior year of high school. That solidified her decision to attend Ferris.

"In high school, it was nice because I was able to sit down in a classroom and sort of get the feel of things. Like, this would be how my day was if I went here. We came and sat in the UC [University Center] between classes and I was like, 'You know, I'd like to come here. It's a comfortable environment,'" Rodriguez said.

Rodriguez discovered her experience with the program so rewarding, in fact, that she returned to participate as a host her freshman year at Ferris.

"I got the email about signing up for Crimson and Gold, and I was drawn to it because I wanted students to get that same opportunity to help them out and answer their questions and set their days at ease, as well as helping them in making their decision on whether to come here or not," Rodriguez said.

Ferris students who participate as hosts within the

program are required to do training in November before participating in the program during the spring semester. Hosts are also paid an hourly rate based on however long they are with their admitted students.

Currently, there are 113 student employees for Crimson and Gold with 133 incoming admitted students registered to participate.

Another former participant and current host is Ferris elementary education freshman Lilian Gray. A first-generation college student, Gray's experience as a participant within the program helped her attack some anxiety she had towards college.

"I remember I was really scared. Like the night before I was panicking and was like, 'Oh no. What if I realize college isn't for me? What if I get there and don't like it?' But then I went to Ferris and within the first two hours I realized I loved this campus. I ran into people I knew, I really liked the classes, the class sizes were small," Gray said.

When Gray received the email highlighting the program's allowance for students to participate as hosts, she joined instantly, hoping to help others like her.

"I understood the issues some students may have when coming to tours because I wasn't the best student in high school, but I'm doing better now. I just kind of want to spread the message that although you may not have done well in high school, it doesn't mean you can't succeed in college," Gray said.

### Qualifications to be a Crimson and Gold Host:

- Be a current student of Ferris with at least 12 credit hours
- Have a cumulative or quarterly GPA of 2.5 or above
- Can commit to a full academic year
- Strong verbal and written communications skills
- Display qualities such as leadership, enthusiasm, dependability and discipline
- A criminal background check and Ferris conduct check
- Be authentic with the participants

### Sexual Assault

Continued from page 4

students involved in a sexual assault on campus.

One example is the Title IX office. A student can go to the office to talk about what happened. From there, Zies said she will work with students and professors to help facilitate a plan to keep them successful in school while they are dealing with the assault, such as asking a professor to extend their attendance policy. Zies said she can also help students move out of their residence hall or help them find a different section of a current class if the perpetrator happens to be in the same class or hall.

Zies will help survivors understand what further options they have in pursuing court action, if desired.

"Hopefully the students can kind of understand how the process works, be a little less intimidated by it or know where to go if they do want to pursue things," Hector said.

Further resources include Birkam Health Center, which provides free counseling to all Ferris students. Additionally, survivors can reach out to WISE. According to their website, WISE provides crisis intervention and support services to survivors of domestic and sexual violence. Their services to victims are free and they have a 24-hour crisis line at 1 (800) 374-WISE.



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**FERRIS STATE UNIVERSITY**

# LIFESTYLES

“Actually, my family still does Easter egg hunts every year - even though me and my siblings are all adults.” - Ben Doyle - See page 7 for story

Alicia Jaimes | Lifestyles Editor | jaimesa@ferris.edu

## Love for literacy | 30 days of poems

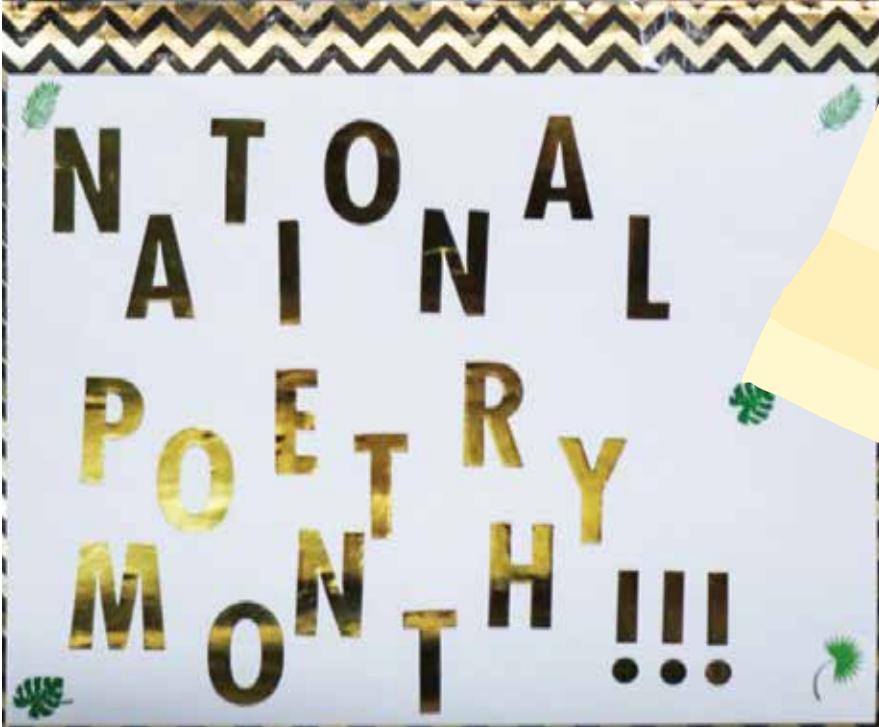


Photo by: Taylor Davis | Torch Photographer

Ferris student and poet Robert Cohen takes the stage, showcasing creativity at the latest National Poetry Month Celebration's Open Mic Night.

**Briana Hammontree**  
Torch Reporter

As the sky grew grey with the promise of rain outdoors, a small group of students gathered around the University Center fireplace near Starbucks for the National Poetry Month Celebration's Open Mic Night Tuesday, April 2.

A podium sat in front of the fireplace, and between these two inanimate objects stood a very animated Ferris history senior Meg Corner. Corner read aloud two poems she wrote, titled “The Edmund Fitzgerald” and “Still.”

“My Michigan poetry tends to focus on the lore of the Great Lakes — shipwrecks and storms and the absolute fury that the water has. And I think it's these frightful legends and the lyrical poetry that allows you to pack into a relatively short space, really,” Corner said.

Inspired by Black History Month in February and Women's History Month in March, National Poetry Month is celebrated year-round by the Academy of American Poets and is the largest literary celebration in the world.

“At Ferris, I began the celebration last year as an extension of my role as coordinator of the Literature in Person series in the English, Literature and World Languages department. I am a poet and my favorite genre to study and

teach is poetry,” Ferris associate professor of English and Literature Dr. Deirdre Fagan said.

As the host of the Open Mic Night, Fagan worked with Ferris English junior Paige Brady to prepare the evening, both of whom participated in the event's readings.



Dr. Deirdre Fagan

“A lot of people read their own stuff, which is always a wonderful thing to hear because it's so vulnerable and can be a little terrifying reading your own stuff up where there is a mic in front of all these people,” Fagan said.

For Corner, she first learned about the event through the Ferris English Department's Facebook page and was excited at the thought of participating in a poetry reading.

“I primarily focus on fiction. I like to write short stories and I'm trying to work on a novel,” Corner said. “Regarding my poetry, I just do it because it's fun. I love capturing the Great Lakes especially. I think poetry is really suited for that, if you will.”

Corner first found her passion for writing after taking a creative writing class during her sophomore year for a general education course, but credits her family for influencing

her writing as they introduced her to her interest in geo-political genres.

This led to Corner receiving her creative writing certificate, and she has since infused her passion for history and writing together as she works on her stories.

She expects to continue this as she enters grad school, where she will be working on her master's in history.

“In my free time, I hope to be able to finish that novel I had mentioned or even just play around some more with poetry. It's not my number one comfort zone, but I have a lot of fun with it,” Corner said.

This event was sponsored by Literature in Person and the English, Literature and World Languages Department. The event was held in celebration for National Poetry Month, which was inaugurated by the Academy of American Poets in 1996.

Students interested in written and spoken word can learn more about it through the creative writing course, certificate or minor, Ferris' English Society, as well as online sources such as the Academy of American Poets, the Poetry Foundation and the Poets and Writers.

### National Poetry Month Events

The following events are sponsored by Ferris' English, Literature and World Languages Department.

#### Poems for the Page/Poems for the Stage, Poet, and Spoken Word Artist Marissa Glover

Date: Wednesday, April 10

Time: 7 – 8 p.m.

Place: FLITE Reading Room

#### Myths, Monsters and Mysteries: A Night of Malevolent Poetry

Date: Tuesday, April 23

Time: 7 – 8 p.m.

Place: Ferris Art Gallery

#### Shakespeare Festival

Date: Thursday, April 25

Time: 11 – 12 p.m.

Place: UC Quad Stage

#### Poem in Your Pocket Day! Poems for your pocket, sidewalk chalk, and more!

Date: Thursday, April 25

Time: 11 – 12:30 p.m.

Place: UC Quad

#### Ongoing Events

Date: April 1 – 30

- \* Library Display Case
- \* Poetry in the Halls of ASC and Starr
- \* Weekly poems in the University-Wide notices



# The hunt is on



Photo by: Alicia Jaimes | Lifestyles Editor

Students will have the opportunity to Easter egg hunt, relax between classes and relive some of their favorite childhood memories.

## Who will be the Easter champion?

**Alicia Jaimes**  
Lifestyles Editor

Ferris applied mathematics junior and Outdoor Club Vice President Ben Doyle hopes to reignite some childhood memories with hidden eggs and candy.

Beginning Sunday, April 7, the Outdoor Club will be hosting its first annual campuswide Easter egg hunt.



Ben Doyle

While many students may not remember the last time they went Easter egg hunting, Doyle joins an annual hunt with his family back home.

"Actually, my family still does Easter egg hunts every year – even though me and my siblings are all adults," Doyle said. "It's a great time, even when you aren't a kid."

Doyle and other Outdoor Club members hid between 200 and 300 plastic eggs around campus the night before the hunt began, and they hope many students will choose to participate in the fun. Each egg will have candy in them as well as a flyer with an invitation for students to bring the eggs

to the Outdoor Club's end-of-the-year Easter party 11 a.m. Tuesday, April 16, in the Card Wildlife Center.

The student who finds the most eggs will win a prize, while the other students get to enjoy some free candy and be entered into a raffle drawing.

Ferris biology senior and Outdoor Club member Nikki Beardsley is excited to provide a fun way for students to unwind from end-of-the-year study sessions and hopes students will get to know their organization a little better.

"I hope to see our club get its name out there so people know who we are. We have so much fun doing outdoor stuff and I would love to see more people get involved," Beardsley said.

The campuswide Easter egg hunt ends Tuesday, April 16.

"The best part about this event is that it gets students outside without putting them through rough weather conditions. Students might get turned off by hikes or camping trips if the weather is bad, but they have 10 days to search for the eggs, and it doesn't take preparation to go searching for eggs," Doyle said.

For more information on the hunt, contact Doyle at [doyleb6@ferris.edu](mailto:doyleb6@ferris.edu).

## The Easter Hunt

Nothing to do between classes? Why not Easter egg hunt?

**Start date: Sunday, April 7**

**End date: Tuesday, April 16**

**Where: Across campus**

## Outdoor Club meeting times

**Time: 11 a.m.**

**Day: Tuesdays**

**Place: Card Wildlife Center**

## Need more information on the Outdoor Club?

**Contact Nate Cornell at**  
[corneln1@ferris.edu](mailto:corneln1@ferris.edu)

**Or**

**Contact Ben Doyle at**  
[doyleb6@ferris.edu](mailto:doyleb6@ferris.edu)



## 2019 MAY COMMENCEMENT

**Friday, May 10, 2019 and Saturday, May 11, 2019**

Ewigleben 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 (Undergrad Students)	Carri Griffis	(231) 591-2493	BUS 200
Business (Graduate Students)	Shannon Yost	(231) 591-2168	BUS 200E
Education & Human Services	Jennie Stange	(231) 591-2700	BIS 604
Engineering Technology	Tamara Jackson	(231) 591-2890	JHN 200
General Studies Graduates	Shelly VandePanne	(231) 591-2360	ASC 1017
Optometry	Michelle Aldrich	(231) 591-3700	MCO 236
Pharmacy	Tara Lee	(231) 591-2249	PHR 312
DCCL	Megan Biller	(231) 591-2710	ALU 113

**Note:** You must satisfy all of your degree requirements before you officially graduate and receive your diploma.

**Caps and Gowns** may be purchased at the Grad Fair on March 26th, 11:00 am – 5:00 pm in the University Center – Multi Purpose Rooms or starting March 26th - May 3, 2019 at the Ferris State University Bookstore (located in the University Center, 805 Campus Drive, Big Rapids MI 49307).

**Tickets** are required for all ceremonies. All students planning on participating in a ceremony will receive (6) six tickets. Electronic tickets will be available for students to reserve or print **starting March 26, 2019**. Extra tickets are not distributed and lost tickets will not be replaced. **Tickets must be reserved by Thursday, May 9, 2019 at 11:59 pm.**

**Commencement Program** – Graduates must complete their online graduation application by **Friday, March 1, 2019 for their names to appear in the Spring 2019 Commencement Programs** or their name will not appear in the Commencement Program. In order to have the program printed and back in time for the ceremonies we have to adhere to these deadlines. Contact your college's Commencement Coordinator if you have any questions.

### Friday, May 10

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

### Saturday, May 11

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

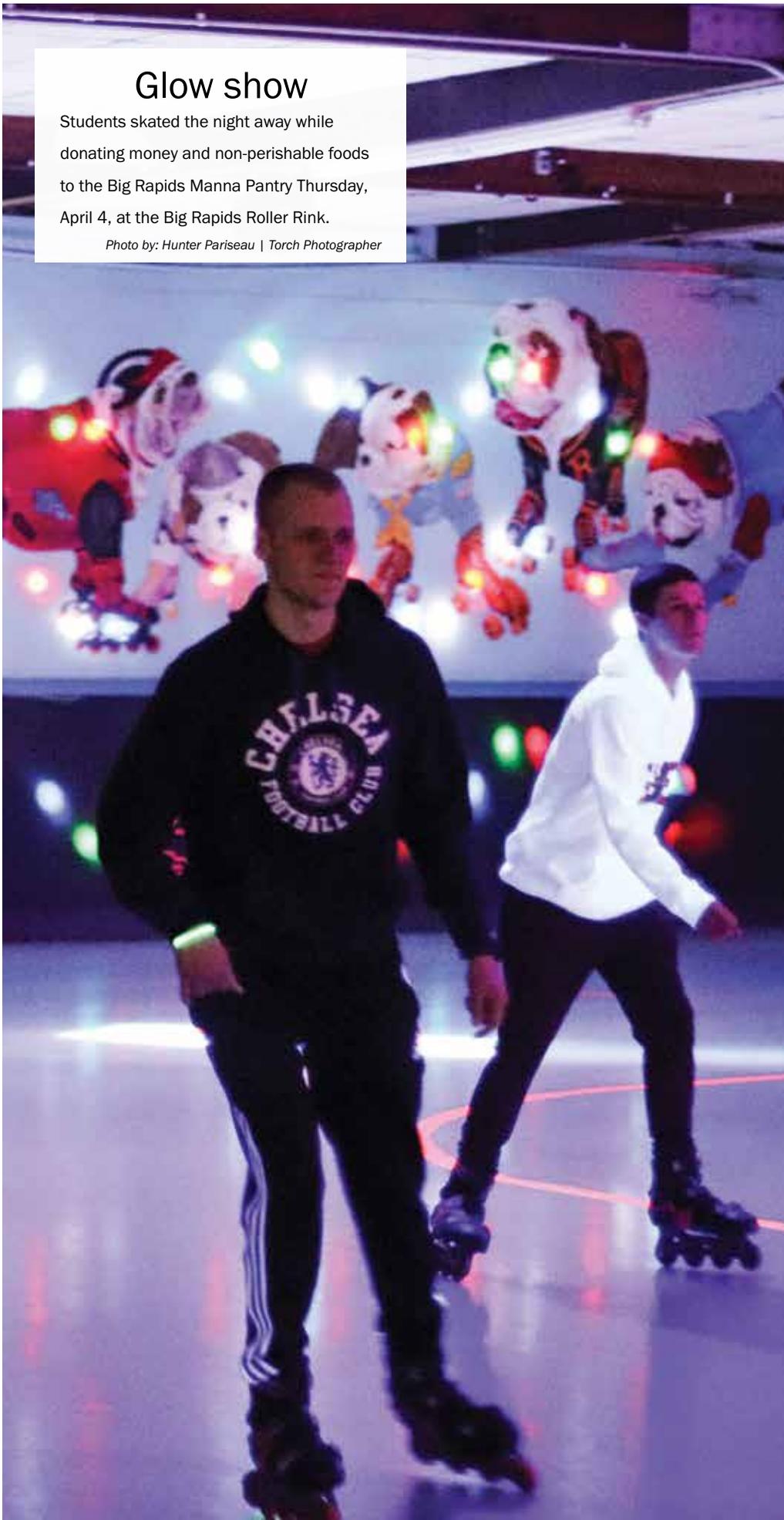
For special accommodations or for more information regarding the Commencement ceremony, please visit the Commencement website [www.ferris.edu/commencement](http://www.ferris.edu/commencement) or call (231) 591-3803.



## Glow show

Students skated the night away while donating money and non-perishable foods to the Big Rapids Manna Pantry Thursday, April 4, at the Big Rapids Roller Rink.

Photo by: Hunter Pariseau | Torch Photographer



# On the run

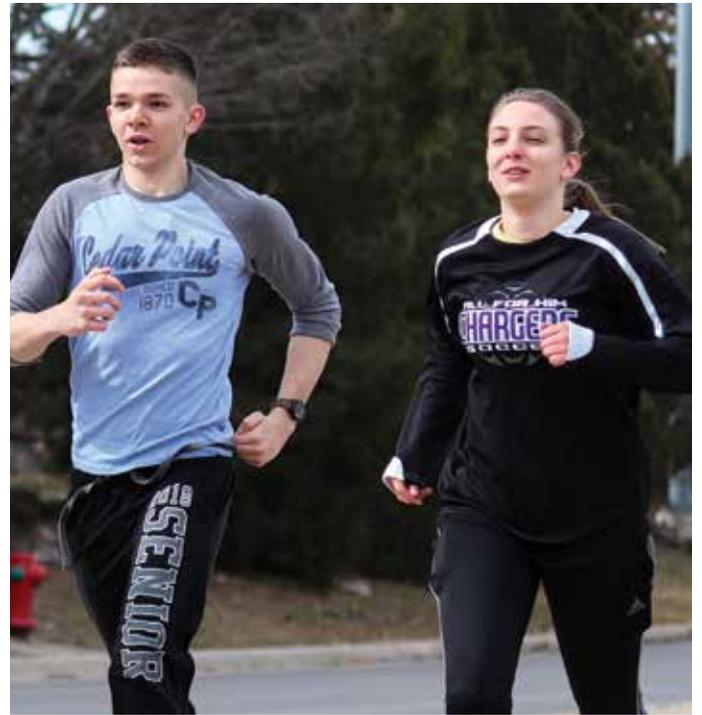


Photo by: Hunter Pariseau | Torch Photographer

Ferris public relations freshman Bradley Moore and Ferris engineering technology junior Anna Wietharn run as a group and enjoy the warming weather.

## Fun ways to improve your health

**Marissa Russell**  
Interim Reporter

While some students have trouble simply walking to class, Ferris engineering technology junior and Running Club President Anna Wietharn is part of an organization that loves to run all around Big Rapids.

The Ferris Running Club is a registered student organization (RSO) for students who enjoy short two-to-three-mile runs while also doing the occasional nine-mile run.

"It's mainly geared to people who ran cross-country in high school," Wietharn said. "But we are currently rebuilding and trying to encourage people, especially if we get a number of different people joining, we can help facilitate people in different stages of distance."

During meetings, members will run anywhere from streets around campus to trails around Hemlock Park. They will also participate in races hosted in town as well as Grand Rapids.

While the RSO officially has five members, the Running Club is always looking for more people to include. This club is best for students who are looking to get back into running or are interested in starting.

Ferris public relations freshman Bradley Moore welcomes the excuse to get out and exercise when he attends running club meetings. While Moore enjoys running now, he had to build up his endurance over the years.

"When I first joined track, I wasn't good at running," Moore said. "But I would run on my own

and set up distance for myself and meet that distance, and every so often I'd bump it up half a mile or however much until I was running four or five miles every single day. You just get used to it."

With the warming weather, Moore will be spending his time running and enjoying the outdoors. Though the Running Club can be seen outside in the spring, they are a year-round organization that enjoys running indoors during the colder days.

Ferris pre-pharmacy sophomore Josh Matson enjoys finding an organization that shares his passion.

"It's nice to be able to talk to different people who have the same interests because, you know, there's a lot of people who have the Rec Centre, but not everyone likes to run and talk about different routes and different races. So, it's nice to have people to talk to," Matson said.

Some of Matson's go-to running trails include along the river trail and along White Pine Trail when he wants to get a lot of miles in. Matson will run every day, but likes to go once or twice a week to take a longer run of at least three miles.

"We just like to run, essentially see different parts of Big Rapids and get some exercise, get moving a little bit," Matson said. "We just run as a group and some camaraderie when we're going around places."

The running club meets 4:30 p.m. Tuesdays, 5 p.m. Wednesdays and 4 p.m. Thursdays in the Student Recreation Center lobby area.

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## Running Club meetings

**When: 4:30 p.m. Tuesdays**

**5 p.m. Wednesdays**

**4 p.m. Thursdays**

**Where: Recreation Center lobby area**

# Weekly festivities



## THURSDAY

April 11

### Thrifty Thursdays Pop-Up Shop

Location: IRC Connector  
Time: Noon – 4:30 p.m.

## FRIDAY

April 12

### Celtic Day

Location: UC 205 (Art Gallery)  
Time: 2 – 5 p.m.

### Greek Week Lip Sync

Location: Williams Auditorium  
Time: 7 – 8 p.m.

### Fridays at Ferris Event

Location: UCB 202C  
Time: 9 – 11 p.m.



## SATURDAY

April 13

### The Big Event

Location: UCB 202  
Time: 8 a.m. – 2 p.m.

### BGC Skating Party

Location: Big Rapids Roller Rink  
Time: 10:30 p.m. – 2:30 a.m.



## SUNDAY

April 14

### International Festival of Cultures

Location: University Center 202 ABC  
Time: 1 – 5 p.m.



## MONDAY

April 15

### Coffee with Kaitlin

Location: UC Fireplace  
Time: 6 – 7:30 p.m.



## TUESDAY

April 16

### Dance Workout

Location: West Campus  
Community Center  
Time: 5 – 6 p.m.

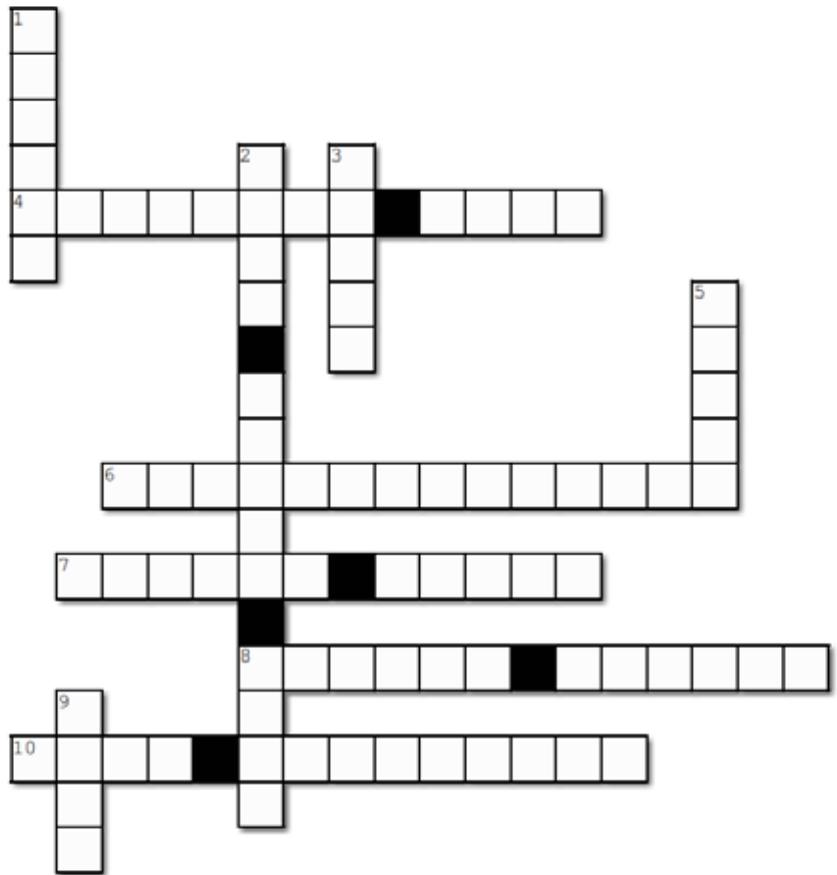


For more information on Ferris events, visit [calendar.ferris.edu](http://calendar.ferris.edu)

Graphic by: Hannah Way | Production Assistant

# “Friends” Trivia

Complete the crossword below and test your “Friends” knowledge!



### Down

1. “Oh. My. GAWD!”
2. “P as in Phoebe, H as in Heebe, O as in Obe, E as in Eebe, B as in Beebee and E as in \_\_\_\_\_”
3. “WE WERE ON A \_\_\_\_\_”
5. What do you say when you’re moving a couch with your friends and you encounter a stairway?
9. What is Chandler afraid of?

### Across

4. Who got stuck in an ATM vestibule with Jill Goodacre?
6. What is one of Ross Geller’s jobs?
7. Which friend ran out on her wedding in the first?
8. Which friend is a clean-freak and makes delicious food?
10. Which character plays Dr. Drake Ramoray on “Days of Our Lives?”

- Down
1. Janice
  2. Elio there, mate
  3. BREAK
  5. Pivot
  9. Dogs
- Across
4. Chandler Bing
  6. Paleontologist
  7. Rachel Green
  8. Monica Geller
  10. Joey Tribbiani

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# SPORTS

"I just could not have picked a better group of guys to have taken down the title with."  
- Patrick Nemmer - See page 11 for story

Cora Hall | Sports Editor | hallc36@ferris.edu

## A close call for Special Olympics

National organization will continue to receive funding after DeVos and Trump receive heavy backlash

Noah Poser  
Torch Reporter

Special Olympics is the largest sports organization in the world for people with physical and mental disabilities.

Having been in existence for 51 years, it provides year-round training and competitions to more than five million athletes worldwide in 174 countries, according to the Associated Press.

Therefore, it came as a surprise to many when U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos announced a national budget proposal that would have eliminated all government spending on the Special Olympics. This cut would have resulted in a loss of \$17.6 million for the organization.

"Honestly, I never thought that this problem would arise within the government," Ferris sports communication junior and Ferris Special Olympics College Club Vice President Jared Ozella said. "Some of the Special Olympic athletes thrive off of this organization. A lot of times, this organization is all that the athletes have. I really believed that something like this would never occur, but I'm glad it got resolved."

After a couple of days of reactions mirroring Ozella's, and even worse reactions with DeVos and President Donald Trump being criticised on social media, Trump came out and announced that this proposal was no longer on the table and that they weren't going to cut funding for the Special Olympics.

While the proposal didn't exist in this form for very long, many members of the organization, as well as supporters and volunteers of the Special Olympics, were very nervous of what would happen with the proposed budget cut. That includes Ferris sports communication junior and Ferris Special Olympics College Club President Savannah Stout.

"I did not know where it was going to end up," Stout said. "The awareness of special Olympics is there, but not nationally. So, I didn't think that there was going to be enough support by the communities to show the government that this is not a good idea along with what kind of negative effects it will have in the program itself."

This cut wouldn't have likely been deadly to the organization, as it is only 10% of the overall budget for the Special Olympics, according to the Associated Press. However, it likely would have resulted in a significant decrease in athletes and a decrease in the number of events that would be put on each year, especially at the local level. While the government is responsible for their 10%, the majority of the Special Olympics budget comes via individual and corporate contributions as well as other fundraising efforts.

"The budget for Special Olympics uses the set budget given to them by the state for things like registration fees, transportation, jerseys and rental spaces as needed," Stout said. "Those things can get expensive especially for an area like Area 5 as they are bringing in more athletes from Newaygo county, so their overall cost will go up. They rely on the steady income to ensure that they are able to attend both spring and winter games, attend sporting tournaments and provide supplies for the athletes."

Therefore, while this budget wouldn't have created a complete collapse of the Special Olympics, it would have severely impacted its reach and support.

Despite the scare, the Special Olympics will continue with this support on the scale and reach it's known for.

"If anything, people can learn that people with intellectual disabilities are incredible people," Ozella said. "They are able to light up your day without even saying anything."



Photo by: Megell Strayhorn | Multimedia Editor

Special Olympics athletes compete in the annual Heart to Heart, Hand in Hand Unified basketball game, where they play with Ferris men's and women's basketball players to raise money for Area 5 Special Olympics.

# Creating a legacy

Three decades at Ferris and Bob Daniels has much to show for it

**Cora Hall**  
Sports Editor

There's no perfect formula to building a dynasty. There's no guide on how to recruit players or how to make a national championship run.

But Ferris hockey head coach Bob Daniels figured it out in his 27-year tenure. Daniels and the Bulldogs have won three regular season championships, a conference tournament championship, made it to the NCAA Elite Eight three times and the NCAA Championship once in 2012. Daniels was named National Coach of the Year twice and conference coach of the year three times, and holds a current record of 454-489-104. Daniels said his coach at Michigan State University (MSU), Ron Mason, was his example of legendary coaching.

"My first year there was his first year there. I'll never forget though the very first meeting, how he presented himself and his vision of the program," Daniels said. "I remember walking out of there thinking, 'That guy's got it.' I mean, he was so clear, so concise, you knew exactly what his expectations were and I thought, 'Wow.' So, even then as a player, I was still watching how he conducted himself."

The Livonia native will be the first to tell you that he wasn't a great player and will make a wise-crack about his skills on the ice. But Daniels knew all along he wanted to be a coach and was always intrigued by the coaching side of the game.

"So, it [MSU] was a perfect laboratory for a person like myself that knew my playing days were limited — and for good reason, I was not good," Daniels said, laughing at himself. "I mean that's just being honest and I can self-evaluate that. So, it was interesting, but I just knew at that time I wanted to coach and things happen for a reason. I couldn't have been at a better place at a better time to say, 'This is how you build a program.'"

Anyone who knows Daniels, though, will tell you right away that it's about more than hockey for him. Former Ferris hockey player Chad McDonald, who played forward

from 2013-17 and now plays for the Kalamazoo Wings, can attest to Daniels' investment in his players.

"Coach was always the guy that, you know, he would stop me and talk to me, and talk to me about school and it's not all about hockey, right? Especially for Coach Daniels. And the best advice he gave me, I think after my freshman year, was that I worry too much about hockey and I need to try to leave stuff at the rink instead of trying to take it home with me," McDonald said. "So, I've tried to live my whole career like that and while it's hard, I've made improvements on that as my career has gone on and I credit a lot of that to him."

Former Ferris hockey player Simon Denis, who was a defenseman from 2011-16, said Daniels' attitude toward personal growth was evident from the very beginning on his official visit.



Chad McDonald

"I know that was one big thing I still remember from my visit was that he doesn't want to just make you a better hockey player, but he wanted you to leave as a better person," Denis said. "And for me I think, honestly, hockey aside, I think without a doubt I left being a better person."

There is a fine line in the player-coach relationship for Daniels, though. Walls have to be put up, which is something that does not come naturally for him. However, Daniels was adamant that while players are on the team, they can't exactly be his BFFs.

"They don't need a friend; they need a coach. So, for me to try to be their friend, it comes across as disingenuous. You have to have a wall built up between you and the players," Daniels said. "But I try to flip that as soon as they graduate because a lot of them are really neat people and I really want to get to know them on a whole different level."

For many players, that switch flips right away. McDonald said right after his senior season, he sat in his coach's of-

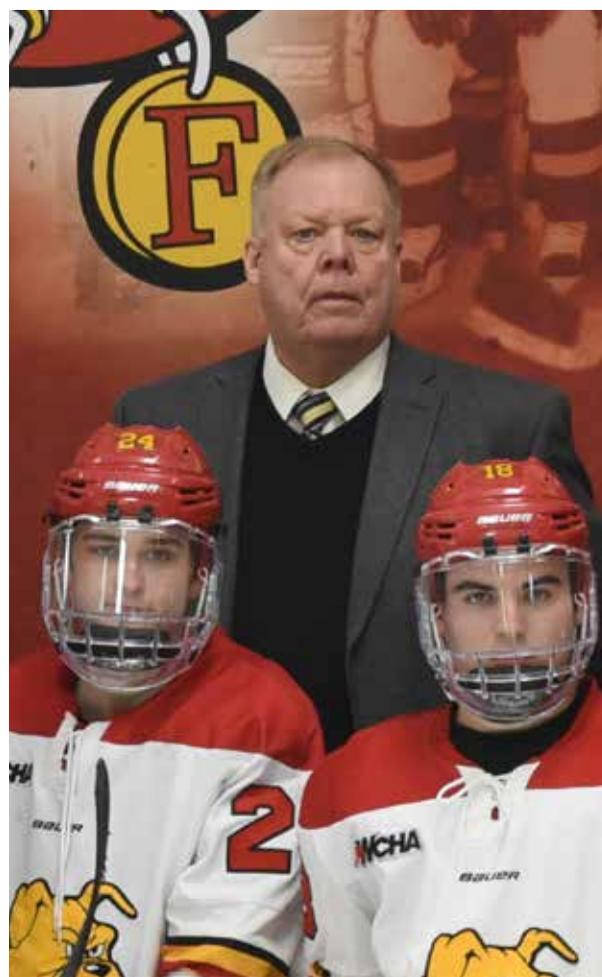


Photo by: Samantha Cavotta | Torch Photographer

Ferris hockey head coach Bob Daniels began his career at Ferris as an assistant coach for three years before being named head coach in 1992.

Daniels | see page 13

# Disc golf takes ultimate prize

## The Ferris disc golf team claims third national title



Photo submitted by Patrick Nemmer

Ferris heavy equipment junior and Disc Golf Club President Patrick Nemmer throws for the last hole in the national championship Saturday, March 30, in Appling, Georgia.

**Noah Poser**  
Torch Reporter

Despite being the underdog, the Ferris disc golf team's chemistry and teamwork have led them to yet another national championship.

The team took home their third national championship in five years Saturday, March 30, and this time took down North Carolina State University (NCSU).

Even though Ferris is one of the smallest schools that competes, it has emerged as a national powerhouse.

They have done this through a never-changing mindset. The team, according to Ferris heavy equipment junior and Disc Golf Club President Patrick Nemmer, goes into every match believing that they're the underdogs, despite the national titles in 2015, 2017 and now 2019.

A lot of it had to do with the culture — a culture that led the team to where it is today — as well as the camaraderie and the team's ability to work well together to better each other as both people and athletes.

"I just could not have picked a better group of guys to have taken down the title with," Nemmer said. "Our personalities meshed so well together,

and the fact that we've all been playing together for at least the last three years proved to be our biggest strength."

Ferris had a one-stroke lead after day two in Appling, Georgia, but then NCSU took a one-stroke lead midway through day three. Finally, Ferris took a two-stroke lead going into the final round. The outcome was in limbo until the final hole.

But it wasn't always meant to be this big. Club adviser Leonard Johnson founded the club. After initially planning on an Ultimate frisbee team, the club developed into one for disc golf.

They eventually started playing with the big guns, having competed in nationals since 2013 against some major universities.

"There are schools we go up against that are constantly competing at a high level such as Liberty, Clemson, Mississippi State and others," Nemmer said. "Many schools have one or two elite players that will play professionally, but it is difficult for schools to consistently find four elite players to make up a team."

Nemmer said the national title was exciting for him and his teammates, two of whom are ending their disc golf careers and one who has been a part of the team for all three titles.

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Attorney: James R. Samuels

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# Sports Shorts

Noah Poser  
Torch Reporter

## Jeff Blashill gets contract extension with Red Wings

Ferris alum Jeff Blashill and the Detroit Red Wings agreed to terms on a two-year contract extension Tuesday, April 2, to remain the head coach of the Detroit Red Wings in the National Hockey League.

Currently, Blashill is in his fourth season as the head coach of the Red Wings and has a record of 136-144-47 in 327 games.

While the record hasn't been what the team has hoped for, Blashill has managed to help guide the likes of Dylan Larkin, Andreas Athanasiou and Tyler Bertuzzi to career years. All three young players have career highs in both goals and points, and have led the Red Wings to eight wins in the past 10 games as the team looks towards the future.

Blashill started his coaching career all the way back in 1998, when he spent four years as an assistant coach at Ferris under current head hockey coach Bob Daniels. Before that, Blashill was a goalie on the Ferris hockey team from 1994-98.

It was also announced Monday, April 8, that Blashill will serve as the head coach for the U.S. Men's National Team. This will be the third straight year that Blashill will lead the national team, which is set to play in the IIHF Men's World Championship May 10 to 26 in Kosice and Bratislava, Slovakia. Blashill holds a record of 14 wins in 18 world championship games, including a bronze medal last year, according to USA Hockey.

## Nur Adim Ramdani Iswan wins GLIAC Men's Tennis Player of the Week

Iswan continued to play great tennis in his senior season, as he was named the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference Men's Tennis Player of the Week for week seven of the 2019 season.

For the second straight week, Iswan managed to sweep all of his GLIAC doubles and singles opponents.

In a 5-2 Ferris win against Northwood University Friday, March 29, Iswan and senior Steward Sell won 6-4 against Ivan Medvynskiy and Ben Brandherm of Northwood at No. 1 doubles. He followed that up with a 4-6, 6-3, 6-0 victory against David Reinauer in his No. 2 singles matchup against Northwood.

In a 4-3 loss to Grand Valley State University (GVSU) Sunday, March 31, Iswan continued to perform at a high level individually. He won his No. 2 singles match 6-2, 6-2 over GVSU's Jack Geissler. He and Sell also managed to dispatch DJ Colantone and Sebastien Lescoulie in No. 1 doubles 6-2.

Iswan and the Bulldogs take on the Ashland Eagles 10 a.m. Saturday, April 6, in the Ferris Racquet and Fitness Center.

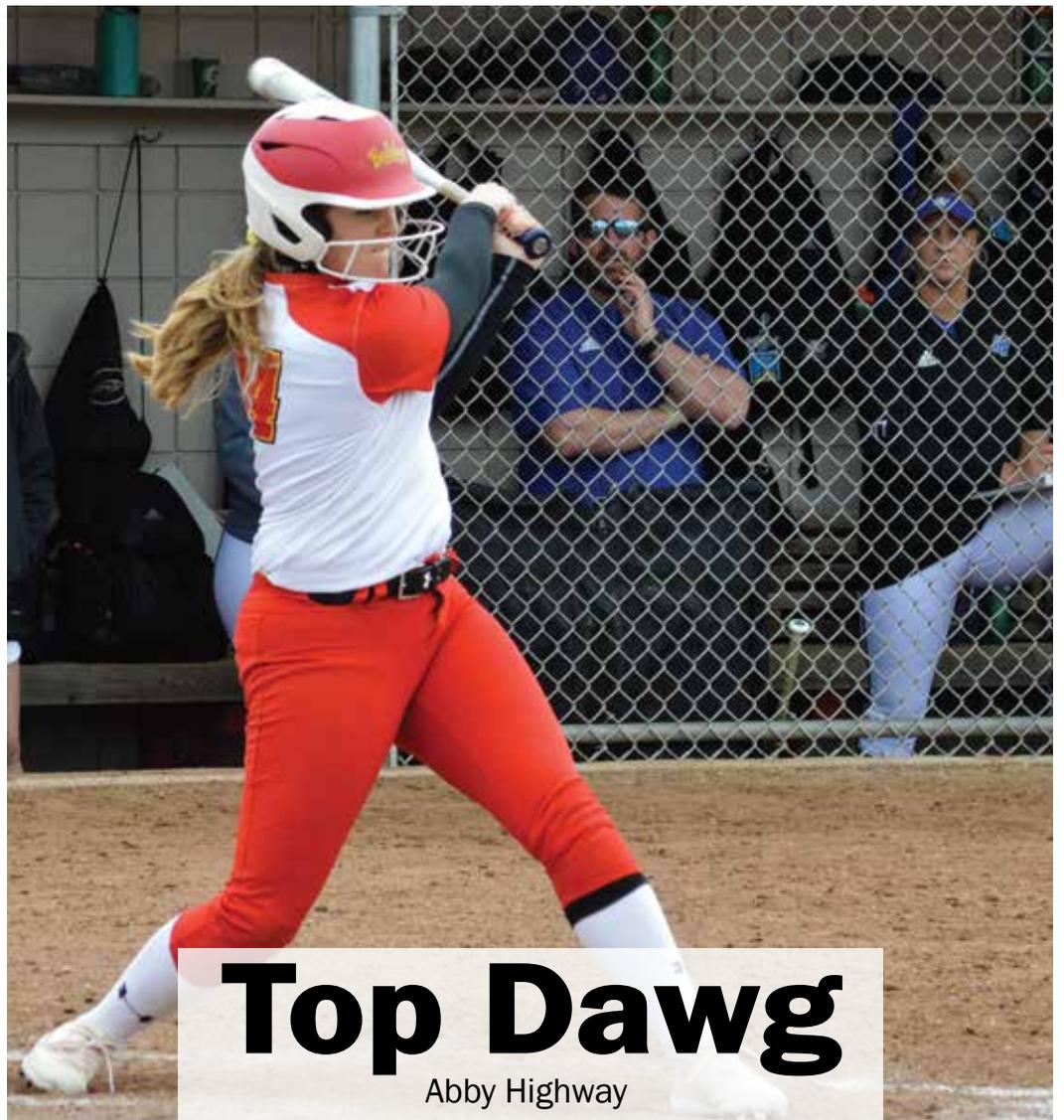


Photo by: Samantha Cavotta | Torch Photographer

Michael Reedy  
Torch Reporter

This week's Top Dawg heads to the pitcher's mound and is awarded to Ferris junior pitcher Abby Highway.

Before a pair of losses to Grand Valley State University Sunday, April 7, the Bulldogs played two series of Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (GLIAC) games against the Northwood University Timberwolves, as well as the Wayne State University Warriors, and went 2-2. A big factor associated with those two wins was the help the Bulldogs got on the mound.

Highway pitched for a total of 15 innings and only allowed eight earned runs. On top of the eight earned runs, she also had three strikeouts. After the wins, Highway improved her record to 9-8.

The Bulldogs dropped game one in both of the doubleheaders and were down headed into game two until Highway and the Bulldog offense led the team

to victory. Highway pitched eight innings Wednesday, April 4, since the game went into extra innings, and gave up 11 hits but only gave up three earned runs to pitch the Bulldogs to a 6-4 victory.

"We were just coming together as a team, our offense was really good and everyone was just working together," Highway said. "My pitches were moving, everything was working, so they were just some really good games."

The following doubleheader Saturday, April 6, after the Bulldogs dropped game one with a score of 6-1, Highway and the Bulldogs rallied back for game two for an 8-5 win. Highway once again pitched the full game and only allowed 13 hits with five runs earned.

Highway is on a four-game win streak since March 29 against the University of Wisconsin-Parkside and has the best pitching record on the team with a 9-8 record.



## THIS WEEKEND'S SPORTS FOR FERRIS

### Friday, April 12:

- Men's tennis vs. Purdue Northwest 6 p.m.

### Saturday, April 13:

- Track & field at Bucknell Invitational
- Women's golf at Ashland Invitational
- Men's tennis vs. Davenport 10 a.m.
- Softball at Purdue Northwest 2 and 4 p.m.

### Sunday, April 14:

- Track & field at Bucknell Invitational
- Women's golf at Ashland Invitational
- Softball at Davenport 1 and 3 p.m.

## The man behind the highlights

*Athletics intern works magic with a camera in athletics*

Austin Arquette  
Interim Reporter

Not all the magic happens on the field. In fact, a lot of it happens behind a student intern's camera.

Ferris sports communication junior Conner Pycr is an intern for the Ferris athletics department, and if you've seen highlight videos on social media the day after a game, that's most likely Pycr's handiwork.

But his position is primarily due to his own initiative, having sought out the job and even starting at an unpaid position.

Pycr said that he reached out to the athletics department and volunteered to run music at the football games for free. With prior knowledge on video production that Pycr said he learned from his dad, he was offered an internship.

"Just being able to have the creative freedom to create whatever I want and have thousands of people see it and hopefully enjoy it, is such a rewarding feeling," Pycr said.

When working in the athletics department, Pycr said he does everything from filming highlights, editing videos, color commenting on hockey broadcasts, sideline reporting for football, making graphics for social media, doing voiceover, editing commercials and helping run the social media accounts.

"Much of the video we produce following games is edited late at night and into the morning hours, so we can turn it around quickly for our fans. He has spent many late nights and early mornings producing graphics and video for our department in addition to being a regular at nearly every home game," Ferris Assistant Athletic Director Rob Bentley said. "Conner is a great person and one that is devoted to his work. He's very personable and interacts well with our student-athletes and coaches."

As a Montrose native, Pycr's career began at Montrose High School, where he graduated with about 90 students and broadcasted sports with the digital media team.

"Other than playing sports in high school, working for Ferris is my first time working with an athletic program," Pycr said. "I had been at Ferris for a full year and decided that if I was going to be successful and use the most of my time here, then I needed to get involved."

Pycr said that he could spend upwards of 20 hours a week just filming and editing videos during the bus-



Rob Bentley

Pycr | see page 13

## Daniels

Continued from page 11

fice talking about everything from Daniels' daughter going to dental school to what his future plans were, topics that wouldn't have necessarily surfaced when he was a player.

"It's funny because I sat in his office I think for an hour and a half when I was done after my senior year, and I think if you combined the amount of times we had talked from my freshman year all the way to my senior year, it's not even that. So, we spent more time in that sitting than we did probably my whole four years," McDonald said. "Some people might think that's wrong, but that's just the nature of hockey and I don't sit there and hold anything [against] him at all. I love Coach Daniels, that's just the nature of the beast."

However, Daniels' career has not been without its trials, the hardest coming from his personal life. When asked about the biggest challenged he's faced, Daniels responded with a heavy sigh.

"It's emotional," Daniels said.

April 13, 2018, Daniels' wife, Leslie Daniels, passed away after a two-year long fight with cancer. It shook the Bulldog community, as Leslie was deeply involved at Ferris.

"My wife passed away, did you know that? In April and..." Daniels paused, choking up. "During that time period, you cannot ... you don't pay the attention to the program that the program deserves and you feel like you're not paying attention to your wife's needs that she deserves. It's just tough," Daniels said.

The Daniels family received a flood of support during the difficult time, and some might consider those community bonds to be the true dynasty Daniels built. It was one of the times he said he was grateful they never left Big Rapids because they were surrounded by those who would support them in their time of need.

Many former players attended the service, including McDonald, who said it showed how much of an impact Daniels has on his players. During that time, though, Daniels said his relationships with his current players became somewhat distant.

"It was very difficult and I kind of lost contact a little bit with our players because as soon as practice was over — I missed a lot of practices — as soon as practice was over I had other duties. I had other responsibilities. I couldn't just hang around the rink and get to know [the players]. Our sophomores this year, I really didn't have a great relationship with them, not that I had a bad one, I was this guy that popped in and out of here," Daniels said.

But when his players rallied around him in his hardship, it was in return of the numerous times Daniels helped them in their own

challenges. McDonald saw this twice in his career at Ferris, suffering a shoulder injury his sophomore year and an elbow injury his junior year. McDonald said right after he separated his shoulder, Daniels came in the locker room with him in the middle of the games to tell him it was going to be all right.

Denis, who went on to play professionally and just finished his first season with the Daemyung Killer Whales in South Korea, suffered one of the more severe injuries Daniels probably saw. After an awkward collision ended with another player landing on Denis' head in 2013, he suffered fractures in



Simon Denis

his C5 and C6 vertebrae. Doctors told Denis it was a miracle he wasn't paralyzed from an injury that can even be fatal. Looking back, Denis said it still blows his mind that it happened.

"I ended up being in the hospital for three days when I first got hurt — and he [Daniels] was, the next morning, the first person to come by and come see me, and he was always one phone call away, which I always knew. He was always there to support however he could," Denis said. "It was a difficult time but it also helped shape me into the person I am today."

On the other side of things, Denis and McDonald both said Daniels looked for the humor in most situations and would be the first to crack a joke.

"He's a jokester, too, to be honest with you. He always chirps, you know, kind of tries to crack some jokes and everything, and I'll never forget when — It was in my sophomore year and I can't remember exactly how it happened — but it wasn't like I was afraid to talk to him, but he eluded to [Brandon] Anselmini being my agent because they had to go through Anselmini to talk to me, and I can't remember the exact story but he always would give me crap about it," McDonald said. "And when you're playing for him, it's not that funny. But when you get a chance to sit back and reflect on your four years, you know, it's kind of funny."

Daniels may be an emotional man, but over the years, he has learned to reign in the emotion, and Denis said he always kept a level head. Sometimes a good yelling was warranted, but Daniels demands much of his players and knows how to get the best out of them, according to Denis.

"Although I know he's an emotional guy and I feel like I am myself, when he was coaching and when he was in the heat of the moment, it seemed like the bigger the game, the more calm he was," McDonald said. "Just kind of goes to show you whether it be a hockey game or if it's a life-changing moment or anything like that,

when you're an emotional person you can't let your emotions get the best of you. So that's one thing I noticed when we were playing in those big-level games and playing in the NCAA tournament, he was just even keel."

Reflecting on his tournament runs, though, Daniels is less level-headed and will openly admit he'll always be upset about his 2003 team losing in the Elite Eight to Minnesota at their campus.

"I still feel to this day that team got ripped off. Because I think our two teams should have met in the finals, Minnesota and us, and it should have been on a neutral site. I'm still frosted, I'll never forgive how that all came down. But back then, that was our first trip so I was just happy to be there, but I get more bitter as the years go on about that, I do, I'm bitter. It's awful," Daniels said, all while laughing.

Daniels' most historic run by far was the 2012 run all the way to the national championship, although ultimately Ferris lost and were national runners-up. In the



Bob Daniels

moment, Daniels said winning a national championship wasn't even on his mind going into the tournament. "It was really interesting how it unfolded, you go into that tournament knowing that your season's done on any loss. You just want to survive and advance and you're not even thinking, 'Win a national championship.' You're saying, 'Just win this game,'" Daniels said. "But it's kind of like you woke up one morning, because you have an off day between the semifinals and finals, and that Friday, that off day you're like, 'Holy crap, we're in the finals.'"

Something Daniels didn't foresee at the beginning of his career that he said he will always cherish is spending time with his players. For him, working with college kids is the "most rewarding" and it does not even feel like a job to him.

"When I first came out and was coaching, I thought I knew it all and I couldn't have been more wrong," Daniels said. "I think it really is important, though, that when you build a program, that it's not just based on your on-field, on-ice accomplishments, that there's so many more accomplishments. Right now, I have three players that are pre-med. I'm as excited about that as I am about anything on the ice. I'm amazed that they can juggle the athletics with pre-med and that bio-chem. That's a tough track, that's a hard, hard degree and I'm just in awe."

"So, what I want people to know, is that we as a staff, myself personally, we get as much joy from accomplishments away from the rink as we do at the rink."

## Pyrc

Continued from page 12



Photo by: Megell Strayhorn | Multimedia Editor

Ferris sports communication junior Conner Pyrc can be found on the sidelines of almost all Ferris home games, filming highlights that he will spend hours later that night editing to be posted on social media.

iest part of the year when football, basketball and hockey are all happening at once. That's just the video editing, though, besides the number of other jobs Pyrc takes on.

"During our peak season, which is August to December, when we have our most sports active, Conner routinely puts in 40-50 hour weeks, including game days. Really, it's a full-time gig for him, but really he's expecting it of himself more than we're asking him to go that above and beyond," Ferris Communications Associate and Hockey Play-by-Play Announcer Harrison Watt said.



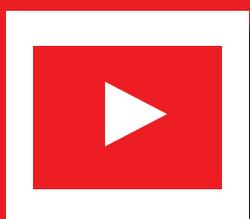
Harrison Watt

Pyrc has gone from just another intern to the heart of the athletics staff, and without his work, athletics would be very limited in the engagement they provided to fans, according to Bentley.

"Conner is such a vital part of our staff. I can't even begin to tell you the number of times he has come through to take what can be a truly insane load," Watt said. "Conner handles it like a seasoned sports information director. He's going to be an absolute gem for whoever hires him after he's done at Ferris. Mark my words."

After he graduates, Pyrc wants to work for a collegiate or professional football team in creative content, much like his job now at Ferris.

"I think he has exceeded what we initially expected of him and it's due to his strong desire to be the best he can be," Bentley said. "We're fortunate we've been able to find another highly-motivated individual who wants to excel and has the skills and desire to learn and grow."



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# OPINIONS

"I only wish I had someone in my life who could have told me to take my next three years as slow as I could..." - Taylor Davis - See page 15 for story

Jonny Parshall | Opinions Editor | parshar@ferris.edu

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## Chat with the chief

Editor in Chief, Megan Lewton

With the snow melted and the temperatures rising, it can only mean one thing: darty season is here.

For those who don't know, a darty is a "day party," most commonly taking place outside (but really, you can darty anywhere). A good darty is a college staple. It is a good excuse for students to day drink and party outside while the weather is nice. And at this point in the semester, many of us need it.

Personally, I'm all for it. There's nothing wrong with drinking the day away and enjoying the gorgeous weather. Dartying is the perfect way to relax, and it allows

people to stay in at night if they want. (Or go out and keep partying. Whatever floats your boat.)

What isn't okay, however, is treating the environment with blatant disregard while doing so.

'Tis the season for Natty Light cans to be strewn all over frat houses' front yards, with empty cases of beer littering the road.

In the winter, this isn't a problem because everyone drinks inside — whether it's in their apartment, at a house party or at the bar. But once it starts heating up and everyone does their partying outside, it's a different story.

I get it. When you're drunk and partying and just trying to have

fun, the first thing on your mind isn't how you're going to clean up afterwards. And that's fine. However, eventually, the party will end and the yard will remain a mess. Whether you want to or not, you're going to have to do something about it.

Don't just say you're going to clean it up in the morning: actually follow through with it. You'd clean up the inside of your house after throwing a party (I mean, at least I hope you would) so don't just leave empty cans and bottles to roll into the streets and ditches. Don't allow empty cardboard boxes to fly through the air with abandon.

It takes an extra two seconds to have some consideration for the environment. When you finish a drink, put the can in a container so it can be recycled later. If you're going to just throw these things on the ground, at least do it inside so you know it will be taken care of.

So, go ahead. Darty your heart out. Enjoy spending time outside in a T-shirt and shorts without turning into a Popsicle.

Just remember: it's not the environment's fault you chose to have your party outside rather than in. Clean up after yourself so the environment doesn't have to face the consequences.

# Parks and wrecked

## The sun is out and there's nowhere to go



Sydney Stevens  
Copy Editor

Imagine you go outside with your friends after a long winter, and you take in a breath of fresh air. Then you guys proceed to walk over to a nice sitting area and enjoy being outside.

This could be Ferris students if we had a place to enjoy being outside.

Now that spring has finally made an appearance and the school year is coming to a close, students are starting to trickle out to enjoy the beautiful weather. The

problem with that is there aren't many places to sit and enjoy the sunshine. The residents who live around Bond Circle have the Obelisk to sit at, but I don't expect anyone from the main side of campus or commuters to unnecessarily trek to the west side of campus just to get some Vitamin D. I think it would be nice if the university could have a couple of outside community areas.

If Ferris were to add some new outdoor areas for people to spend their time, it could promote outside activities such as Frisbee and hammocking. People hammock now, but trees are limited, and a person could spend all day waiting for a spot

to open up. Maybe the areas could have a group of poles or trees to allow people to hammock.

Picnic tables and benches with backs could change an entire setting. It would be so cool if I could go outside with my friends and have a picnic or just lounge around on park benches without feeling like the Hunchback of Notre Dame.

Along with promoting an outdoor presence, I think the sitting areas would encourage meeting new people around campus. This is always a great goal to work towards when ideas for change come around. From experience, I have learned that living in a community has built long-lasting friendships.

The springtime is an excellent time of year for new beginnings. What better way to do that than to have an environment that will attract and facilitate those new beginnings?

Graphic by: Sarah Massey | Production Manager

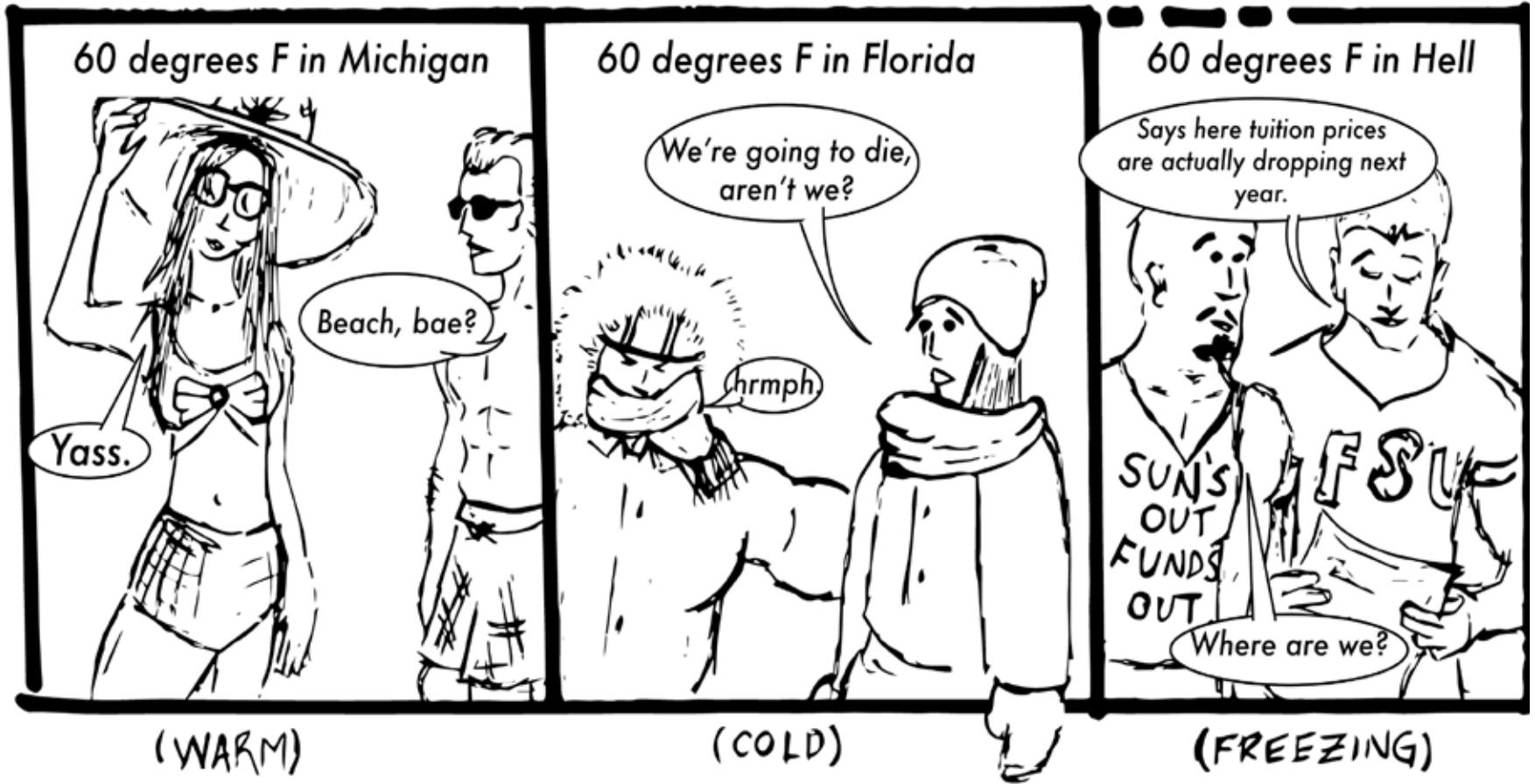
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2. Write out your thoughts in a coherent and respectful manner.
3. include a headshot and some information about yourself (location, age, etc.).
4. Email your opinion to the editor for a chance to have your work published in our next issue!

"WEATHER IN CONTEXT"



Cartoon by: Jonny Parshall | Opinions Editor

# Senioritis

How to keep the drive alive



Starting out as a freshman here at Ferris, I was an eager student who was ready to take on my classes with no hesitation. I was 19 years old, excited to be leaving my parents' house, and ready to start my life and get my degree.

I took the basic classes, including FSUS, Math 110 and two other 100 level classes. I did not understand why it was required to start with such low-level, uninteresting classes, and that I had to pay for a class to teach me how to be a student. However, I got through those courses without crying myself to sleep at night.

Little did I know that this was the start of what was to be a long, stressful five years of my life. I would have to say, however, that it did not start to really hit me that classes were becoming difficult until my junior year. I feel as though, personally, the first two years of college are just the beginning.

By my second year of college, I still felt like my eager, peppy self and was excited to continue to my junior year. If I could go back and relive those first two years, I would enjoy every moment of it. I was just about to peak over the top of that rollercoaster to plummet into an unknown life of anxiety and stress. I only wish I had someone in my life who could have told me to take my next three years as slow as I could because I feel as though I've been on autopilot this whole time.

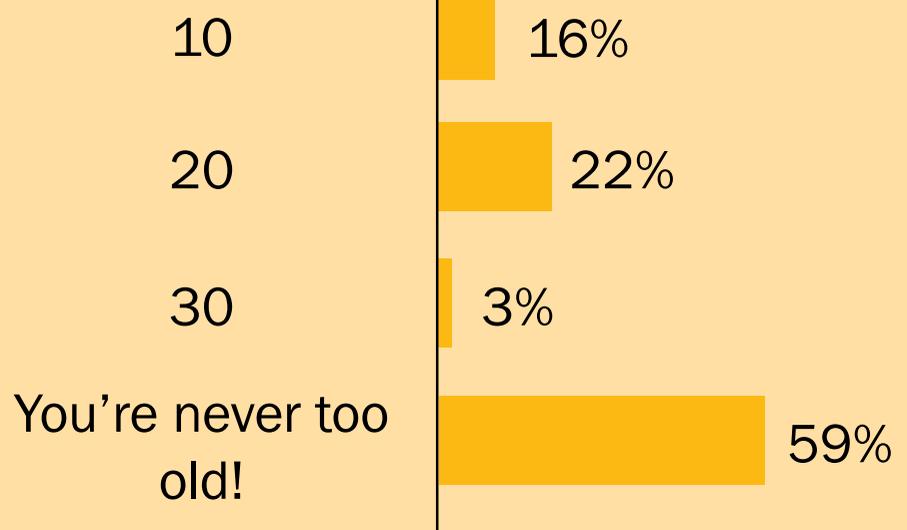
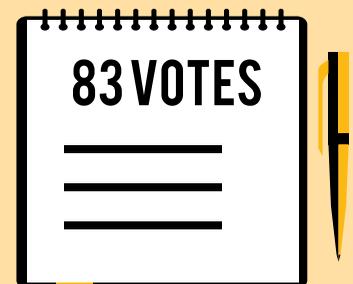
Unfortunately, I still felt all the pain of the assignments that never seemed to stop piling up, the due dates that seemed to be on the same days and the test that never seemed to get easier. However, now I am 23 years old, and here at the finish line of my rollercoaster and I only wish it could go faster.

I am tired and worn from my years as a college student. Senioritis is real and it exists. I feel as though I am having to give all my effort to continue going to class, to turn in my assignments on time, and to buckle down and study for my test. If there are any non-believers of this concept, my advice to you is to just wait until you're at the end. You will believe.

To the freshman who is just ending their first year here at Ferris, please keep in mind that these are your beginning years that will fly by in a breeze. As you continue your college career, take your classes seriously and give them your all. To those who are nearing the end, I only wish I had advice to get you through your last semesters. I have yet to find my own.

# TORCH POLL RESULTS

How old is too old to participate in an Easter egg hunt?



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