



HERE'S WHAT'S INSIDE

NICE TO MEET YOU... VIRTUALLY
How are events being held during the pandemic? Ferris students reveal how they feel about in-person vs. virtual events.

TO LEAD IS TO BE VULNERABLE
Ferris athletes share their feelings about mental health and the stigma surrounding it, specifically for men in the sports world.

NEWS | PAGE 4 **SPORTS | PAGE 11**

Ferris continues limited in-person classes

University tests 2,600 students in first two weeks of classes

Alyssa Hubbard
News Reporter

53 COVID-19 cases have been reported at Ferris since the university reopened, according to the Ferris Coronavirus Update Hub.

Though Ferris has put new rules into place in order to maintain a safe learning environment, students and faculty have had varying reactions to the university's approaches.

Michael Klepser is a Ferris professor for the college of pharmacy and a member of the COVID testing committee. He is also the father of a Ferris student and has been involved with on-campus residential student testing.

"Ferris is doing everything it can to keep its students, faculty and staff safe," Klepser said. "University administration has not just focused on one solution to this problem. Members of the university community are constantly trying to learn about COVID-19, what other institutions are doing and making changes to their plans as warranted by new data."

Klepser estimated that roughly 2,600 students took the COVID test upon moving into the resident halls. Some students are wondering if the university should increase its testing or not.

"I feel like it should be a personal choice," said Ferris illustration junior Emily Gudzinski. "Have the symptoms? Tell people you've been around immediately, get tested and quarantine. However, people may turn a blind eye, so the university might have to step up."

Klepser believes the health and safety of everyone at the university has been the highest priority during the reopening process.

"Student, faculty and staff safety has been the primary driver for every decision made," said Klepser. "I am pleased by the broad range of elements that have been included in this plan and that we have not just tried to convince ourselves that testing is the only answer. Testing for COVID-19 is a valuable tool, but it is not the only thing that should be done to track disease activity."

In addition to testing, Ferris is requiring students and staff to maintain social distancing and to wear masks while on campus. They are also encouraging the daily symptom checker which can be accessed through the Healthy Dog Portal. Some students remain fearful that Ferris may still face severe consequences, regardless of its attempts to limit the spread of the virus.

Ferris music and entertainment business junior Nicole Hollinsky suggested a change to the university's online COVID daily symptom checker because she believes it is not a reliable method of precaution. Hollinsky proposed that Ferris provide free testing for everyone to better track and control the spread.

Despite Ferris' efforts, some people believe students shouldn't be back on-campus at all.

"I think the transition back to campus is unsafe and is putting students at risk," said Ferris English senior Chrysta Lafay. "Certainly, there are classes that benefit immensely from being in person, but gathering large numbers of students, who may or may not have another choice, is never going to end well."

Nonetheless Klepser and others remain hopeful and trusting that the university is taking every necessary action.

"I feel that the university has met or exceeded all state and federal recommendations for keeping students, faculty, and staff safe," said Klepser.



Photo by: Cora Hall | Editor in Chief

Students, staff and faculty who are on campus are required to wear masks and stay socially distanced from others.

WHAT TO KNOW ABOUT COVID-19 AT FERRIS

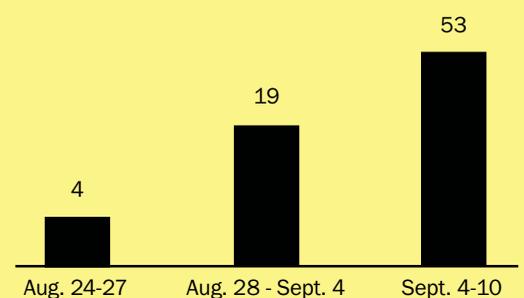
CURRENT STATUS: PHASE THREE

- Full return to in-person campus operations, Aug. 24 - Dec. 21
- Complete the required COVID-19 Symptom Checker daily and stay home if you are sick.
- Wear a face covering inside University buildings and in any situation where social distancing is difficult.
- Practice social distancing (6 feet).
- Practice good hand washing/sanitizing often.
- Conduct group or staff meetings remotely as much as possible (use Zoom, MS Teams, etc.).
- Stay to the right when using hallways and stairwells.
- Limit only 2-people riding in an elevator at one time.
- Be aware of any additional social distancing guidelines that may be posted on the doors and hallways of different campus buildings.

HOW TO GET TESTED

- 1) Go to spectrumhealth.org or download the Spectrum Health App
- 2) Make an account if you don't already have one or login to My Chart
- 3) Select COVID-19 Scheduling, then COVID-19 Screening
- 4) Fill out questionnaire and pick your appointment time
- 5) Show up to drive-thru test at Spectrum Health Hospital at 605 Oak St.

CUMULATIVE CONFIRMED COVID-19 CASES ON BIG RAPIDS CAMPUS



The above information was gathered from from ferris.edu

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NEWS

“With a comparison like that, it certainly seems out of bounds. This is student tuition that’s ultimately paying the salary and he’s making a lot more than a similar counterpart.”

- Charles Bacon - See page 5 for story

Cora Hall | Editor in Chief | hallc36@ferris.edu

Students carry on with community clean up, COVID-19 style



Photo by: Veronica Mascorro | News Reporter

Volunteers with United Greek Council participating in the Big Alleyway Clean Up. From left: Leonardo Almanza, Vanesa Rios, Berenise Alvarez, Lezley Rodriguez, Karen Barrose, Lesly Blanco, Gerardo Marcial-Matias and Xavion Gill-Murphy

Veronica Mascorro
News Reporter

One of the things that COVID-19 hasn’t stopped is students wanting to give back to their community.

105 students showed up through various organizations on campus to volunteer at the

Big Alleyway Clean Up on Saturday Sept. 12 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

The Big Alleyway Clean Up is one of the two big community service events that Ferris puts on every year. This year, the volunteers filled up 24 bags and 11 buckets with trash from across all across Big Rapids.

Ferris hospitality management junior Katie Bittner was one of the students who woke up early to volunteer with the American Marketing Association for the event.

Bittner, who is from the Big Rapids area, expressed how important it was for her to help out the community.

“I think it’s important for organizations at Ferris to take part in helping the community of Big Rapids. It feels good to give back to this community because the community gives to us a lot as students.”

As part of safety measures Ferris has been conducting in-person events differently from before. Prior to COVID-19 students would be required to sign into events by swiping their ID cards. Ferris has now begun using the CheckPoint app.

Through the CheckPoint app all students need to do is input a 4-digit event code, along with their student ID or email, to track their attendance.

Coordinator of Career and Volunteer center, for the Center for Leadership, Activities, and Career Services (CLACS) office, Michele Albright talked about the different things they were doing to keep the event safe for all.

“We phased the start time so that we could have multiple

groups arrive at different times and kept them to under 10 people per group,” said Albright. “We also made everyone wear facemasks and provided everyone with hand sanitizer and gloves.”

Albright expressed how thankful the Big Rapids residents were for the students who volunteered.

“We covered about 51 alleyways and we even had some groups who went above and beyond and finished with their alley and went around the whole hospital to clean,” said Albright. “The alleyway cleanup was done in collaboration of the city of Big Rapids and the homeowners around town really appreciated the work these students did.”

Students who are interested in volunteering both in-person or virtually can look for volunteer opportunities on the CLACS volunteer center website or through the Bulldog News updates sent via email.



Photo by: Veronica Mascorro | News Reporter

From left: Lezley Rodriguez, Lesly Blanco and Gerardo Marcial-Matias

Torch Corrections

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- ON THE RECORD -

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

Pot 68

Cora Hall
Editor-In-Cheif

High on more than just life

Sept. 12, 9:33 p.m., a student in Merrill Hall was given an MIP for possession or cultivation of 2.5 ounces of marijuana or 12 plants by a person under 18.

Mine now

Sept. 4, midnight, a larceny was reported at 330 Oak St. The investigation is closed.

Please don't leave your kids alone

Sept. 8, 4:28 p.m., officers responded to a report of nonviolent child abuse and neglect by a family member in Robin Court. The case is currently closed.

Just follow the rules, man

Sept. 7, 10:55 p.m., officers reported an obstruction of justice in Robin Court. They arrested the subject in question for violating parole due to liquor violation and operating under the influence with a BAC of .17% or more.

It's the being under 21 for me

Sept. 7, 4:02 a.m., officers issued a MIP to a minor attempting to purchase or possessing liquor in Lot 9.

Why can't we be friends

Sept. 6, 4 p.m., officers were alerted to a report of in-

timidation or stalking through an electronic medium at Ward Hall. The investigation is still open, pending prosecutor review.

Pot 68

Sept. 5, 10:48 p.m., officers issued a MIP for a violation of controlled substances and possession or cultivation of marijuana to a subject aged 18-20 in Lot 68.

Double trouble

Sept. 2, 9:27 p.m., officers issued a misdemeanor traffic violation not a subject driving with a suspended or revoked license at Venlo Apartments. The subject was subsequently arrested.

Joy ridin'

Sept. 2, 8:06 p.m., a subject was operating under the influence of liquor or drugs in Cramer Circle and was cited for violation of controlled substances in addition to the OUI and was arrested.

Puff, Puff, Puterbaugh

Aug. 31, 10:25 p.m., a subject inn Puterbaugh Hall was cited for being a minor in possession of or cultivating marijuana.



WEEKLY WORLD NEWS

Catch up on news around the globe

Kaylin Johnson
Managing Copy Editor

San Francisco

At least 24 people have died in the fires engulfing the West Coast over the past week. Scientists are in agreement that the warmer and drier conditions are leading to the increasingly common wildfires. Stronger winds have only added fuel to the fires which have consumed around 5 million acres of forest. The National Weather Service has issued a "red flag warning" due to the possibility of windy and dry weather in Oregon and California.

Original article by Thomas Fuller and Jack Healy, Sept. 13, 2020, The New York Times

Belarus

Protests against Belarus's president, Lukashenko, continued Sunday when over 100,000 people gathered in Minsk. This is the fifth weekend of protests. Belarus's August election is widely assumed to have been rigged in favor of Lukashenko. He has attempted to quiet the protests by having his security forces exile members of the Coordination Council.

Original article by Luke Harding, Sept. 13, 2020, The Guardian

Yemen

The Human Rights Watch warned on Monday that the warring parties in Yemen are interfering with

aid from international donors. Donors cut funding in June partly due to this interference. The aid, which includes food, health care supplies, water and sanitation is desperately needed to support the people of Yemen.

Original Article by Samy Magdy, Sept. 14, 2020, Associated Press

World Wide

The Coronavirus pandemic continues as the World Health Organization reports a record daily rise in new cases around the globe. 307,930 new infections were reported between Sept. 13 and 14. The largest increases were seen in India, The United States and Brazil. Deaths also rose by more than 5,500. Israel will be implementing a nationwide lockdown beginning on Friday Sept. 18.

Original article Sept. 14, 2020, BBC News

Australia

At least one humpback whale took a wrong turn on its annual migration to Antarctica and wound up in a crocodile-infested river in northern Australia. Marine authorities are working on a plan to persuade the whale to leave the murky river.

Original article by Rod McGuirk, Sept. 14, 2020, Associated Press

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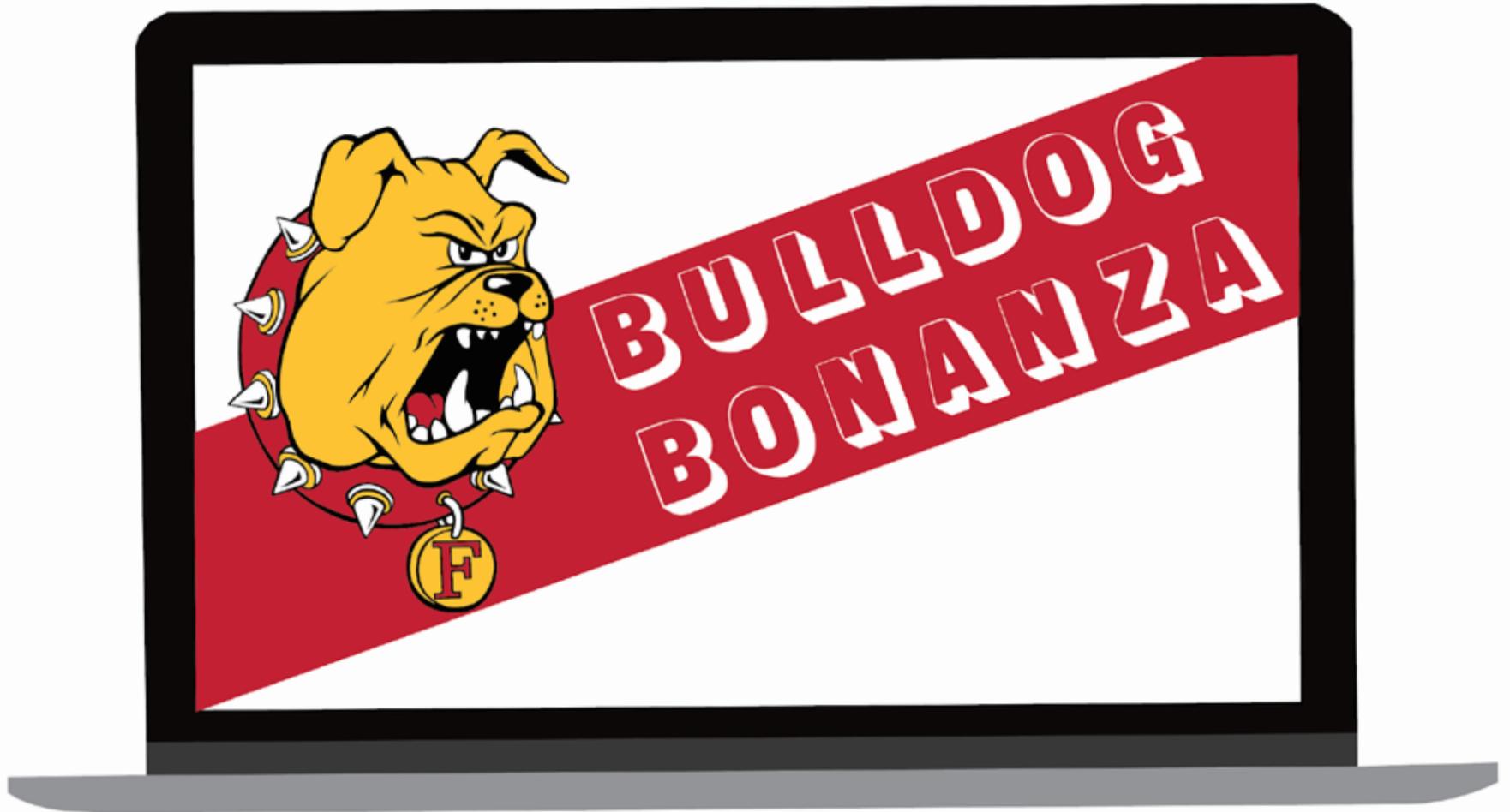
Updated August 13, 2020

FERRIS STATE UNIVERSITY

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Nice to meet you...virtually

Ferris' trial run of popular events online saw low student participation



Graphic by: Cora Hall | Editor in Chief

Veronica Mascorro
News Reporter

With social distancing as the new norm, students have had to adjust from going to in-person events to attending virtual ones.

Over the summer Ferris worked on finding the best platform to hold its online events. Eventually they settled on Easy Virtual Fairs (EVF). EVF allows users to make their own custom booth to showcase their organization and as well have a representative available to answer any questions students may have.

Many of the traditional events such as RecFest, Founders Day and Bulldog Bonanza were all held using this platform.

Ferris television and digital media production sophomore Juan Vargas volunteered through the Hispanic Student Organization to answer questions and interact with new students who were interested during Bulldog Bonanza but was disappointed at the turn out. Vargas reported that no students showed up to the booth.

"I felt upset that no showed up because I was excited to meet with new people and introduce them to the organization," said Vargas.

Vargas believes that the lack of attendance was due to a lack of awareness or information on the event.

"It is a possibility that many students, especially freshmen, have no clue about it," said Vargas. "I think it was good platform to use, given the circumstances. It's free and easily accessible to use, however I would've preferred an in-person event."

Ferris healthcare systems administration freshman Nicole Ly is one of the freshmen who did attend Bulldog Bonanza but found it a bit confusing at first.

"It was really interesting. There wasn't a lot of direction and students were kind of just given a link and they weren't given any reminders or anything about it. So, it was clueless, but I felt like it was easy to operate," said Ly.

After the events of her senior year, Ly expressed that she knew not to get her hopes up too much for her first year at college but thought that attempting an in-person event could be beneficial.

"I think it would be really cool to have an in-person event as long as we could do it in a safe way," said Ly.

Ferris dental hygiene freshman Jordan Collins knew about Bulldog Bonanza through the Honors Program but also was confused going into it.

"Bulldog Bonanza was confusing because they basically just threw a link at you said, 'here figure it out'," Collins said. "I feel like once you got in, it was easy to navigate, the tough part was knowing if you were in the right spot because they gave no guidance."

Collins also talked about how getting adjusted to the college experience is very different compared to before.

"Everyone always hyped up college by saying 'everything is going to be so fun you're going to make so many new friends' and I feel like the ways to make friends are not there so it's just kind of rough," said Collins. "I feel like being able to experience an in-person event would be better because you can get more interaction and information that way."

Despite these feelings Collins said she would most likely use the EVF again.

"I probably will use it again because I feel like you could get some good information but like I said, the guidance on getting there is kind of rough," said Collins.

The upcoming events that will be held on Easy Virtual Fairs can be found at <https://ferrisstate.easyvirtualfair.com/#/home> or on the Ferris calendar, calendar.ferris.edu

Virtual events calendar

WEDNESDAY
Sept. 16

Virtual Tours for Hispanic Heritage Month

Time: 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Link to register: <https://www.ferris.edu/HTMLS/news/jimcrow/hispanic.htm>

Info: Take a free virtual tour of the Jim Crow Museum to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month.

THURSDAY
Sept. 17

Get Acquainted Day

Time: 5 p.m. - 7 p.m.

Hosted on Easy Virtual Fair
Info: Office of Multicultural Student Services student welcome event. Meet student organizations, different departments, listen to music and win raffle prizes.

FRIDAY
Sept. 18

Study Abroad Workshop

Time: 1 - 2 p.m.

Link: <https://zoom.us/j/99070078453>

Info: Learn more about studying abroad each Friday at 1 p.m. Megan Hauser-Tran will discuss how studying abroad can fit into your academic plan, budget and personal development.

MONDAY
Sept. 21

Sigma Lambda Gamma Informational

Time: 7 - 8:30 p.m.

Link: <https://zoom.us/j/97133954833>

Info: Learn more about what it takes to be a Womxn of Distinction in Sigma Lambda Gamma.

TUESDAY
Sept. 22

Love Like Love

Time: 6 - 7 p.m.

Hosted on LGBTQ+ Resource Center's Discord server's LLL channel
Info: A group for bi, pan and fluid spectrum Ferris students.

For more events, check out calendar.ferris.edu

Eisler's compensation package makes nationwide report

See the data on how President Eisler's compensation package matches up with other presidents

Cora Hall
Editor in Chief

If you've ever wondered how much Ferris President David Eisler makes in a year, it's your lucky day.

An article by The Chronicle for Higher Education, reported that Eisler's total compensation package amounts to a grand total of \$891,000 per year, with his bonus pay in 2019 amounting to \$418,000. This article was updated this year with 2019 public-college data. The Chronicle compiled data from 600 private colleges and 270 public universities.

While Eisler's base pay is \$277,707, the ratio of his total compensation to average faculty salary is a 9:1 ratio; only four of the presidents included in this report made a higher ratio than that. Ferris physical sciences professor of 36 years and Ferris Faculty Association President Charles Bacon said he knew the article would be a "contentious issue" and felt the ratio was quite high.

"Well I would say, it's a bit excessive," Bacon said. "I don't like to be a position to tell people what they can and can't earn, but then at the same time, when he is cutting positions and laying off people, it does seem disingenuous, accepting such a high salary."



Charles Bacon

Presidents listed in the article with a similar compensation package work for universities such as West Virginia University, University of Louisville, North Carolina State University, University of Buffalo and Temple University. These institutions have student enrollment numbers ranging from 22,640 to 39,581 compared to Ferris' 14,187. Eisler makes \$281,779 more in total compensation than the next president at a similar institution (Texas State University).

"With a comparison like that, it certainly seems out of bounds," Bacon said. "This is student tuition that's ultimately paying the salary and he's making a lot more than a similar counterpart."

Compared with other Michigan universities in the Chronicle's report, Michigan State University's president Samuel Stanley has a total compensation package of \$386,795 (Stanley just started his position in 2019—former president Lou Ann Simon had a compensation package of \$857,024) and University of Michigan president Mark Schlissel has a compensation package of \$920,295. Central Michigan University president Robert Davies' compensation package is a total of \$437,511 and Wayne State University president M. Roy Wilson

has a compensation package of \$654,419.



Amna Seibold

According to the Board of Trustees chair Amna Seibold, part of Eisler's bonus pay was a longevity incentive payment of \$338,000. Seibold said Eisler used this money to support a scholarship endowment through the Ferris Foundation. The scholarships help orphans and foster care youth have the opportunity to attend Ferris.

2019 is the first year Eisler has received the incentive payment, according to Ferris Communications Office Michelle Rasmussen. It was a commitment made to him by the Board in 2012 when he was a finalist for presidency at another institution. Eisler's longevity incentive was taken from the General Fund, which is comprised of student tuition, state support and investment earnings, according to Rasmussen. It was not disclosed how much of the General Fund is funded by student tuition dollars.

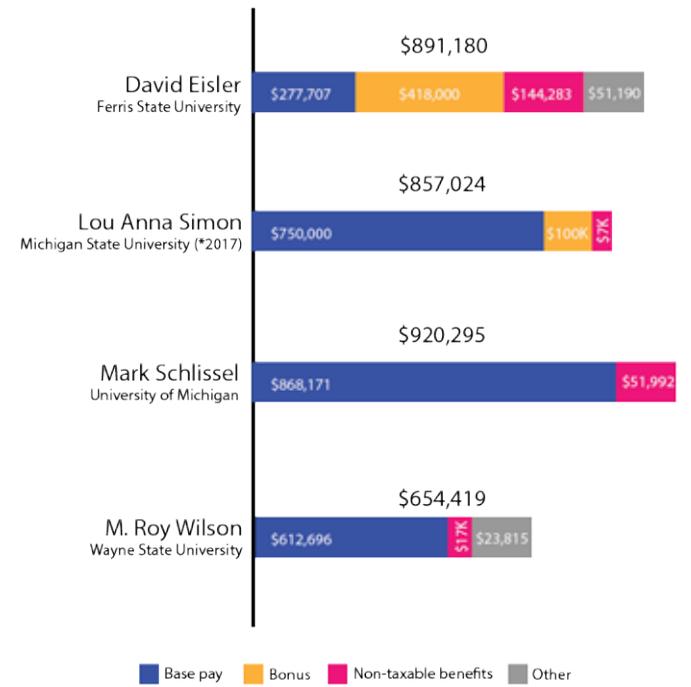
"As trustees we carefully review his performance annually and also examine the market factors which must be taken into consideration when setting his compensation for the coming year," Seibold said in a statement to the Torch. "Dr. Eisler is the senior public university president in the state. We greatly appreciate and value the outstanding leadership he has consistently provided to the University during his 17 years of service at Ferris State University."

Eisler's bachelor and doctorate degrees are in clarinet performance. Presidents with similar compensation packages hold degrees in areas of study such as history, computer science, statistics, marketing and educational administration.

While Bacon doesn't believe a president's degree determines how qualified they are for the position, as Eisler was previously a dean and provost before becoming president, he said he will leave the judgement up to others.

"Here's the thing, he's been our president for 17 years," Bacon said. "When he came here, the Board of Trustees, within a year, decided he needed a mentor because apparently he really didn't know how to do the job. So, they hired a mentor for \$50,000 a year and then after five years, they discontinued the mentor and rolled the \$50,000 into his salary. If the man's been on the job 17 years, I guess he should know what he's doing. I kind of have to leave that to other people to decide whether they think what he's doing is correct."

Michigan University Presidents' Total Compensation in 2019*



Information gathered from The Chronicle for Higher Education

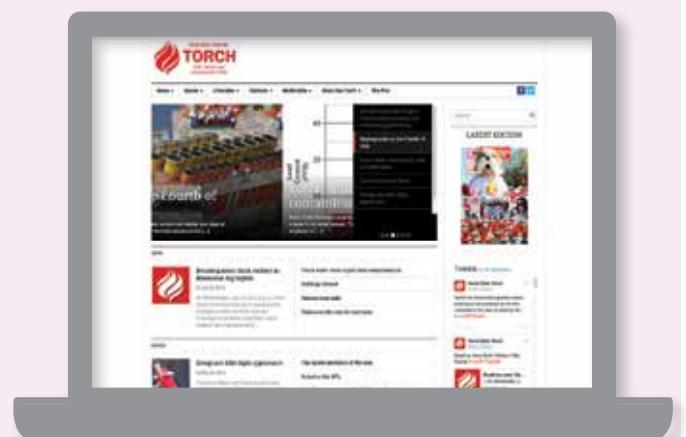
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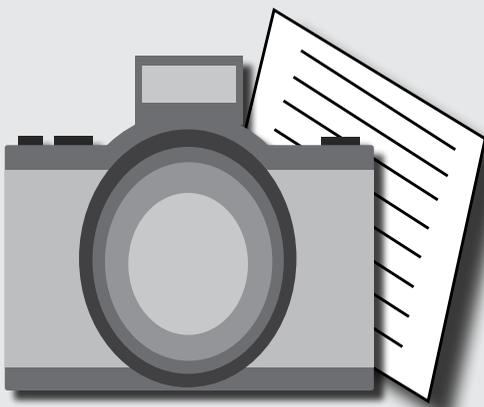
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Cora Hall

LIFESTYLES

"We want anyone who is seeking God in whatever stage they are at. We want to meet them there."

- Christopher Pointer - See below for story

Marissa Russell | *Lifestyles Editor* | russem22@ferris.edu

Real Life doesn't have to be a struggle

During a time when life is starting to get real, Real Life is there to help guide your way

Matthew Miller
Lifestyles Reporter

Walking through the North quad on a Tuesday evening around 7 p.m. you may find a group of people gathered.

The Real Life is a Christian based RSO that aims to lead young adults in spiritual growth. The atmosphere of their meetings is very welcoming, and they always are encouraging more people to come and worship with them.



Sara Springstead

Ferris Dental Hygiene major Sara Springstead is the president of Real Life. Springstead said that her position entails making sure that events are planned for Real Life and that they go smoothly for the RSO.

"I would say that my most memorable moment with Real Life is last year when we went on the fall retreat," Springstead said. "It was just such an amazing experience to have everyone there for the weekend for a lot of worship and we were able to get to know each other more."

Springstead said that she has made great connections through Real Life. She was able to find her best friend and current roommates within the organization. She wants everyone to know that Real Life is open to anyone. All are welcome to join.

Real life's goal is to travel with you on a walk with the Lord. They don't care if you are a beginner or if you have been walking with him your entire life. Their belief is that a community is one of the strongest parts of spiritual growth.



Kaleb Essink

Ferris Sports Communications major Kaleb Essink joined Real Life last fall. Essink said that he has many great friends and that his journey towards faith has taken off since coming to Real Life. In Essink's opinion, Real Life doesn't need to be a major time commitment. You get out of it what you put in.

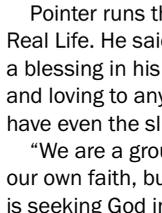
"It doesn't have to be a big commitment, it just all depends on what you decide to do," Essink said. "For me I decide to do a lot of things with Real Life, but it doesn't have to be. The more you go through the better it is."

Essink wasn't a born-again Christian until last year. His most memorable moment with Real Life so far was on the fall retreat when he had an encounter with the Lord, and it changed his life. According to Essink, it was the greatest day of his life.

There are quite a few upcoming events planned for Real Life. First, on Wednesday, Sept. 16, they're having a Real Life picnic starting at 6 p.m. They are encouraging everyone who is curious to come out. If you can't make it, they are hosting a hike on Saturday, Sept. 19.

If you are interested in attending, they ask that you please follow them on social media for more information and to bring a mask to follow CDC guidelines. You can find Real Life at Real Life Ferris State on Facebook and @reallifefsu on Instagram.

Ferris Alumnus Christopher Pointer is one of the leaders of Real Life. Pointer works with the ministry to put on weekly community groups that allow the RSO to practice social distancing. He said that the weekly meetings are on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 7 p.m. In the North Quad and they run for about two hours. On Sept. 8, the meeting was led by Pastor Nick Loveberry.



Christopher Pointer

Pointer runs the social media and takes the pictures for Real Life. He said being a part of this community has been a blessing in his life. He believes the community is open and loving to anyone and encourages all those who may have even the slightest urge to join to try it out.

"We are a group of Christians who are seeking to grow in our own faith, but at the same time we want anyone who is seeking God in whatever stage they are at. We want to meet them there," said Pointer.

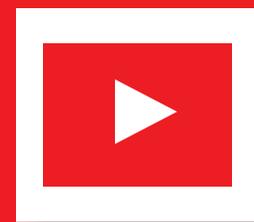


Photo courtesy of Christopher Pointer

Pastor Nick Loveberry leads Real Life in a Tuesday meeting in the North quad.

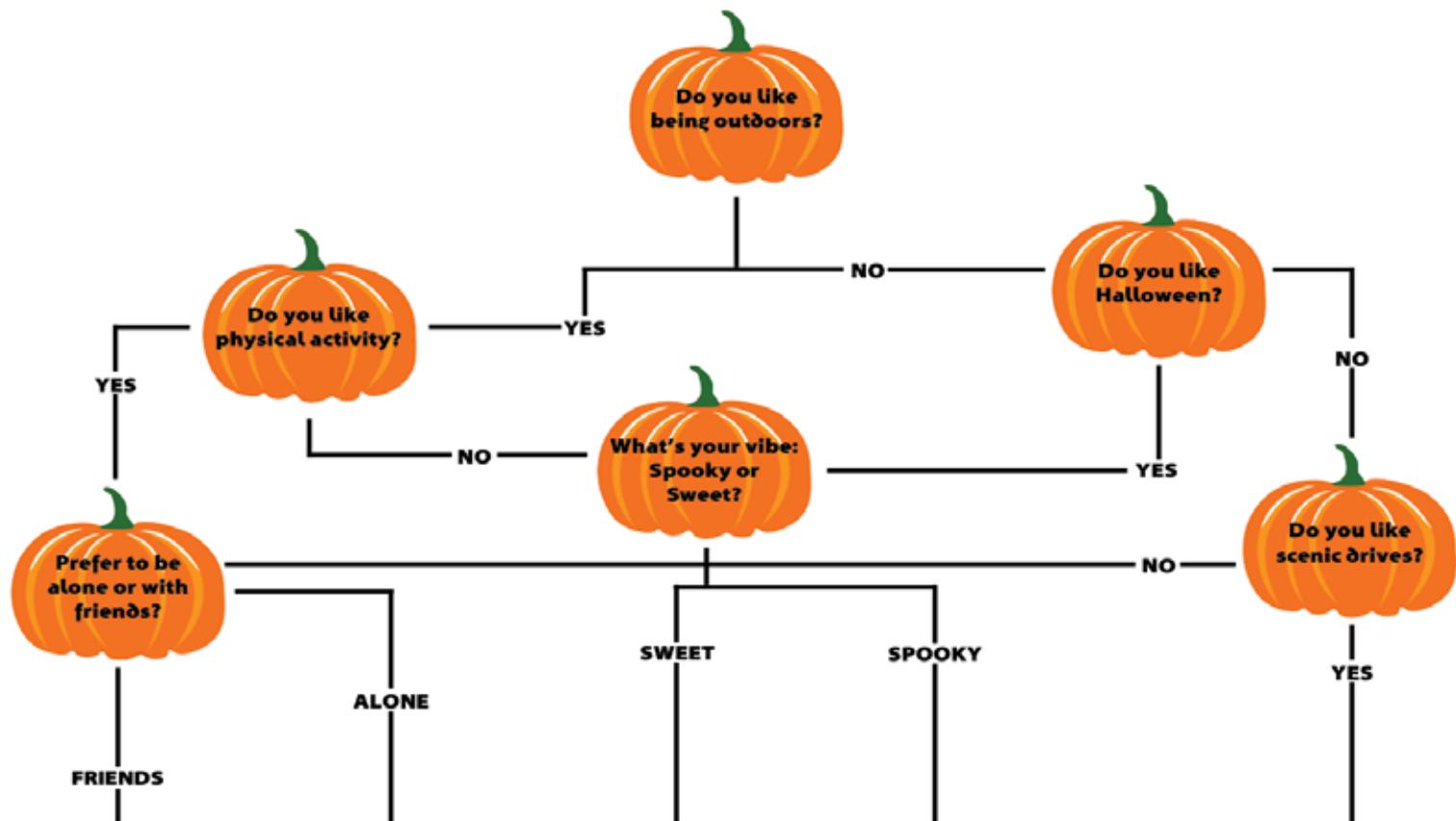


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FUN FALL ACTIVITIES QUIZ



<p>PUMPKIN PATCH</p> <p>Some call it basic, but we call it a fall staple. Pick out your own pumpkin and carve it up with your friends and don't forget the cider and donuts!</p>	<p>GO FOR A HIKE</p> <p>Just because you prefer to be alone doesn't mean you need to sit at home. Go take a walk and get some fresh air after sitting in zoom classes all day.</p>	<p>HOST A PIE BAKE-OFF</p> <p>Apple, Pumpkin, Pecan, oh my! Show off your baking skills with your friends by having a pie bake-off (and maybe an eating contest too).</p>	<p>SCARY MOVIE MARATHON</p> <p>Grab some popcorn, pull out the blankets and get ready to throw it all when the jump scares come out. Enjoy a terrifying night in with your friends.</p>	<p>TRAVERSE CITY COLOR TOUR</p> <p>If you haven't been up north in Michigan in the fall, you're missing out! Take a drive by yourself or with a friend and enjoy all the brilliant fall colors nature has to offer.</p>
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Graphic by: Cora Hall | Editor in Chief



Throwback

Students having fun while tailgating before GVSU football game on Saturday, Nov. 10.

Torch File Photo

Raven' reviews

Get to know the local brewery



Matthew Miller
Lifestyles Reporter

Walking around downtown Big Rapids and looking for a delicious place to eat isn't that hard so long as you walk to the right corner.

There are many bars and restaurants around town of Big Rapids. Most of the time they tend to be places filled with college students or locals. One of these well-loved restaurants is the Raven Brewing and BBQ.

The Raven, as it is commonly called, is one of the hot spots located right in the heart of downtown. On the corner next to Pocket Park on South Michigan, The Raven offers amazing music and an atmosphere that truly captures you from the moment you step in.

The Raven also offers seasonal specials which garner excitement within the customer base. Right now, they are offering a dish known as poutine. If you've never heard of poutine before, the dish consists of French fries and cheese curds with gravy poured over the top. They will even add your choice of meat as well. My personal favorite special is the street corn.

A common opinion of The Raven is how amazing their nachos are. I can most definitely agree with this statement. If you order their nachos, you are sure to get some of the best nachos around town. Now, you may be thinking that these are comparable to the \$5 nachos box you'll get at Taco Bell, but no. In my opinion, The Raven nachos are a big plate of Heaven right in front of your face.

Though mainly known for their meats, The Raven does offer a variety of foods. The Smokehouse Mac & Cheese and the Gaucho Salad are some of our favorite options for those looking for something aside from the main BBQ plates.

If you do plan on getting a BBQ plate, be sure to come hungry. The Raven is not known for skimping on portions.

I would recommend The Raven to anyone who is looking for a great fun atmosphere to eat nice food and spend quality time with friends.



Photo by: Ben Totten | Torch Photographer

POPULAR EATS

- Smokehouse Mac and Cheese
- Smoked Cuban Press
- The Burger
- Hippie Nachos
- Gaucho Salad
- Peanut Butter Cheese Cake
- Pallazolo's Artisan Gelato



POPULAR BREWS

- Liquid Leopard
- Mr. Gorilla
- This One Goes To 11
- Orange Creamsicle
- CBS
- Strawberry Milkabama Shakes
- Uber Goober
- Sap on Tap
- Big Fan Smoked Amber



Photo by: Ben Totten | Torch Photographer



Photo by: Ben Totten | Torch Photographer

Making the virtual transition

CLACS employees give insight to running center and events online

Kendall Rooks
Lifestyles Reporter

You may think that coordinating events during the pandemic is simpler than planning an in-person event, but virtual events can be even more difficult to plan.

Angela Roman is the Director of Center for Leadership, Activities, and Career Services (CLACS) and is currently facing that task in addition to her many jobs to do as director.



Angela Roman

"You may see me on-site coordinating an event, find me in the University Wide committee meeting collaborating with others for student success," Roman said, "or you might just find me having a great one-on-one conversation with a student talking

about their career goals."

She does all of this while also leading a hard-working team. Roman is largely active in the bigger events held on campus such as Bulldog Beginnings and Music Takes Action but enjoys attending all the events CLACS has to offer.



Nick Smith

Both Roman and Smith have found the transition to online events to be an interest-

Nick Smith is another key player in running events at the CLACS office. Smith is the Coordinator of Activities and Student Organization Center. Smith works a lot with the events as well as the RSOs. As the Administrator for the Bulldog Connect platform, he is also frequently helping students navigate the system.

ing new experience and are still figuring out what works and what doesn't.

"By that I mean what are students interested in?" Roman said. "What time works for their schedules? What do they want to plan themselves?"

Roman said she has also begun feeling much more confident and having more fun with these virtual events after gaining some experience with the technology. Luckily, some events can continue in-person if they are outside and have under 100 attendees.

Based on their experiences so far during this pandemic, Roman and Smith have many ideas for running future online events. Their plan is to make the events more interactive by playing music while guests are entering, having surprise guests, holding mid-event stretches, as well as theming your zoom backgrounds. She also encouraged that students should change Zoom profile

names to your full name and your pronouns.

If you plan on attending an event, make sure you RSVP on the Checkpoint App. This is how they will monitor the size of events and attendance. If you are hosting an event do not forget that you can still advertise with posters and information tables, even if the event is online. Lastly, test out Zoom or any platform you use prior to an event to make sure there are no surprise glitches when the event time comes.

You can find information on upcoming events held by CLACS on Bulldog Connect, the CLACS homepage, and the Checkpoint App. Some of the upcoming events include OMSS Get Acquainted Day on Thursday, Sept. 17 and the Student Stand Up Comedy Competition. The CLACS office is located on the UC first floor and is open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.



Torch File Photo

Bulldog bonanza picture hosted by CLACS from 2019.

Connect with CLACS on Bulldog Connect!

Get information on:

- Activities center
- Career center
- Greek life
- Leadership center
- Student organization center
- Volunteer center

Contact them at
clacs@ferris.edu or
(231) 591-2685

Request a coach for:

- *Success coach* - Gives students support and referrals to the resources located on campus
- *Involvement coach* - Helps student discover their interests and goals while also recommending involvement opportunities.
- *Student organization coach* - Helps students in organizations in making a lasting impact
- *Career coach* - Gives students an understanding on how the world works and different job/internship opportunities

SPORTS

“Right now, we are spending our time doing what we can...”
- Tia Brandel-Wilhelm - See page 13 for story

Brendan Sanders | Sports Editor | sandeb16@ferris.edu

Former Ferris golfer finds success at next level

Local legend Ben Cook is making a name for himself in PGA Championships



Brody Keiser
Sports Reporter

Former Bulldog golfer Ben Cook may be only 26 years old, but he has already competed alongside Tiger Woods twice.

Cook, a 2017 graduate of Ferris State University, was a standout golfer for the Bulldogs during his collegiate career. Now, he is making a name for himself at the professional level.

His first appearance in the PGA Championship was in 2019 at Bethpage Black. He shot scores of 74 and 73 and missed the cut by just three strokes.

Cook's second PGA Championship appearance occurred just a month ago at TPC Harding Park in San Francisco. He shot a 146 through two rounds and again missed the cut.

The two-time All-American at Ferris was thankful for the experience he garnered from golfing alongside players like Tiger Woods, Jason Day and Rickie Fowler.

“It's eye-opening,” Cook said. “You idolize all these guys growing up and now all of a sudden I'm on the range hitting balls next to them. It's crazy. It's about knowing that I do belong and that I earned the right to be there just like they did and any given week, any of us can win.”

Going forward, Cook will look to continue competing at the highest level and play four full rounds to make the cut at the tournament. To do so, he will have to play to the best of his ability.

“I've got to do the little things like making sure I put in my work with my instructor, make sure I'm working out and my body is in the best shape it can be to play at the next level,” Cook said. “Playing in as many tournaments as I can is big too, and then being able to play well at the right time. When a break comes, I have to make the most of it and be ready for those moments. It's a grind for sure.”

Looking back at his time in college, Cook appreciated the tough competition he faced. He credited the “really, really good” players he competed against with helping him reach the level of success he has found professionally. He also understood the value of getting on the course as much as possible.

“The more tournaments you play and more game-like situations you get, the better your game is going to get,” Cook said. “The more under the gun you are, the better you will get, the more comfortable you'll be. Getting those reps under my belt has helped my professional game a ton.”

In his senior season at Ferris, Cook led the Bulldogs to a GLIAC second-place finish and a national top-ten ranking throughout the season. For the second time in his collegiate career (the other being 2015), Cook also won the GLIAC Player of the Year.

The Bulldogs reached the national quarterfinals in Cook's final season. In the super regional round, Cook set an all-time school record by shooting a 64 in the final round of 18, breaking the record of 65 set by John Hagemeyer and repeated by Jim Lusk and Eric Lilleboe.

Outside of golfing professionally, Cook is the golf pro and instructor at Yankee Springs Golf Course in Wayland, Michigan. This season is his second at the course. He teaches children as young as four and adults in their 80's.

“It's a very wide range, so it's kind of fun in that way,” Cook said as he thought about teaching people of all different ages. “I get the broad spectrum because I've also got a couple of kids that are trying to play in college and some high school players.”

Golf was not always Cook's top sport. Growing up, he competed in both soccer and golf and never knew which sport he would end up pursuing in college. It was not until high school that he realized his golf potential and decided to focus his efforts on golfing. Looking back, he believes he “100 percent” made the right decision by choosing golf.

Cook loves golf because it is a sport that anyone can play even after their time in organized competition finishes.

“One of the luxuries of golf is that you can play it for a lifetime,” Cook said. “With golf, even if you don't play professionally, you can still play.”

Cook's love for the game of golf drove him to compete at the highest level and to the best of his ability. So far, that has translated to success at the highest level. Now, Cook will look to climb all the way to the top and continue representing the Bulldogs in the PGA.

Photo courtesy of Ferris Athletics

Former Ferris State Golfer Ben Cook hits a drive during his time as a Bulldog.

To lead is to be vulnerable, honest for Ferris football players

‘We have to get away from stereotyping men and athletes as being so tough to where we’re not able to open up’

Cora Hall
Editor in Chief

James Ceasar is a regular viewer of Fox Sports 1’s “Undisputed” show, hosted by Shannon Sharpe and Skip Bayless. As a defensive back for Ferris’ football team, he’s naturally an avid follower of the NFL. What he saw unfold the past week was disappointing, to say the least.

In an interview for “In Depth with Graham Bensinger,” Dallas Cowboys quarterback Dak Prescott opened up about his struggles with mental health and depression, at first due to quarantine and then compounded by his brother’s suicide in April.

“I started experiencing emotions I’ve never felt before. Anxiety for the main one. And then, honestly, a couple of days before my brother passed, I would say I started experiencing depression,” Prescott said in the interview that was posted on YouTube last week.

After the interview was released, Bayless chose to respond to Prescott’s comments on air, saying that Prescott’s decision to go public with his struggles was showing weakness.

“I don’t have sympathy for him going public with ‘I got depressed, I suffered depression early in COVID to the point that I couldn’t even go workout,’” Bayless said, because he’s the quarterback for “America’s Team.”

In Ceasar’s eyes, it’s exactly comments like these that perpetuate the stigma around men—especially Black men and male athletes—sharing their struggles in mental health.

“We don’t feel like we’re able to open up and be vulnerable to share those thoughts and the things we’re going through because we feel like other people will judge us or call us ‘soft,’” Ceasar said. “It’s not fair to us because they want men to put on this front that we’re tough and so hard all the time, but we go through real life stuff as well, that other people may not see. Those things get us real emotional and it does affect our play and it does affect our work.”

Ferris junior defensive back Amere Blake saw Prescott’s interview as powerful statement coming from a player with his platform. It was a message for others to know they’re not alone in their struggles. Depression impacts people differently, and it impacts people of all walks of life.

“Having all the money in the world or having the fame or having that type of job doesn’t exclude anyone from getting depressed,” Blake said. “Depression is something that’s really uncontrollable when it comes on to you.”

Part of Prescott’s reasoning for sharing his struggles publicly was because his brother, Jace, never did. It was a burden that eventually became too much for him, and Dak felt that he needed to share his burdens. It was something that Ceasar understood, as someone who has dealt with depression himself after his father passed away from cancer.



Photo from Dak Prescott’s social media

Dak Prescott (center) laughs with his brothers Jace (left) and Tad (right) at a press conference in 2019.

Blake, who experienced feelings of depression his red-shirt freshman year after not making the travel team, said dealing with depression is on a person-to-person basis, whether it means sharing it publicly or not.

“Some people may deal with depression differently than others,” Blake said. “So for him to criticize [Dak] on the way he dealt with his depression isn’t right and that’s not the right way to go about it...depression is a person-by-person basis and for someone like [Bayless] to criticize [Dak], that’s not OK. In my eyes, that’s not OK at all.”

Another point that Bayless brought up was that he believed as a leader of a franchise, Prescott shouldn’t have shared his experiences because that made him look weak, that it made him less trustworthy in tough spots to his teammates. But for Ceasar, vulnerability from a leader means something entirely different.

“Keeping that bottled up and not expressing that can lead to self-destruction,” Ceasar said. “As a leader, you have to let your teammates see that side of you, so they know that everything that’s coming out of your mouth and everything you’re trying to give to them is real. I think being a leader, it comes with a responsibility of trying to do

the right thing all the time, but sometimes those leaders go through things, too, that other people might not know about.

“Being honest with their teammates can go a long way in that relationship, and it can really be good for the whole team.”

Prescott responded to Bayless’ comments, saying to be a leader, he has to be genuine and real and make sure his mind’s in the right place before he can lead to the best of his ability.

“It’s important to be vulnerable, to be genuine, to be transparent. I think that goes a long way when you’re a leader and when your voice is being heard by so many, and you can inspire,” Prescott said.

Bayless addressed his original comments, but did not apologize for anything he said. The sports world has made strides when it comes to attitudes towards players’ mental health, but comments like his—during National Suicide Prevention Month, no less—are a glaring reminder that the stigma still exists.

With this situation and athletes taking stands on social justice issues this summer, it’s become more apparent than ever that there’s still a large population of sports fans that view athletes as just entertainers. It’s gone on for generations and it’s time to remember that athletes are humans.

“We have to get away from stereotyping men and athletes as being so tough to where we’re not able to open up and share our true thoughts about what we’re going through,” Ceasar said. “We’re ultimately suffering from it... and it just needs to stop. I don’t feel it’s fair to athletes and I don’t feel like it’s fair to men around the world.

“We’re idolized as being so strong and so tough that they forget about our true feelings and emotions that we go through on a daily basis.”

In a close-knit team like Ferris’ football squad, Ceasar said the conversations around mental health have begun to be more open and more accepted. While it may not be to the point where a player would open up to the whole team, both Blake and Ceasar say they have honest conversations with teammates about their struggles.

“It’s getting better, but a lot of men still don’t feel comfortable opening up about things they’re going through,” Ceasar said. “Even me, sometimes. I go through stuff every day, whether it’s family-wise, school-wise or athletically. People go through their own battles every day and I feel like a lot of times we still put those feelings aside to put on a front.”

If you or someone you know is dealing with mental health issues, please call the 24/7 Suicide Prevention Hotline at 1-800-273-8255. This hotline provides free, confidential support and resources to those struggling or in distress.

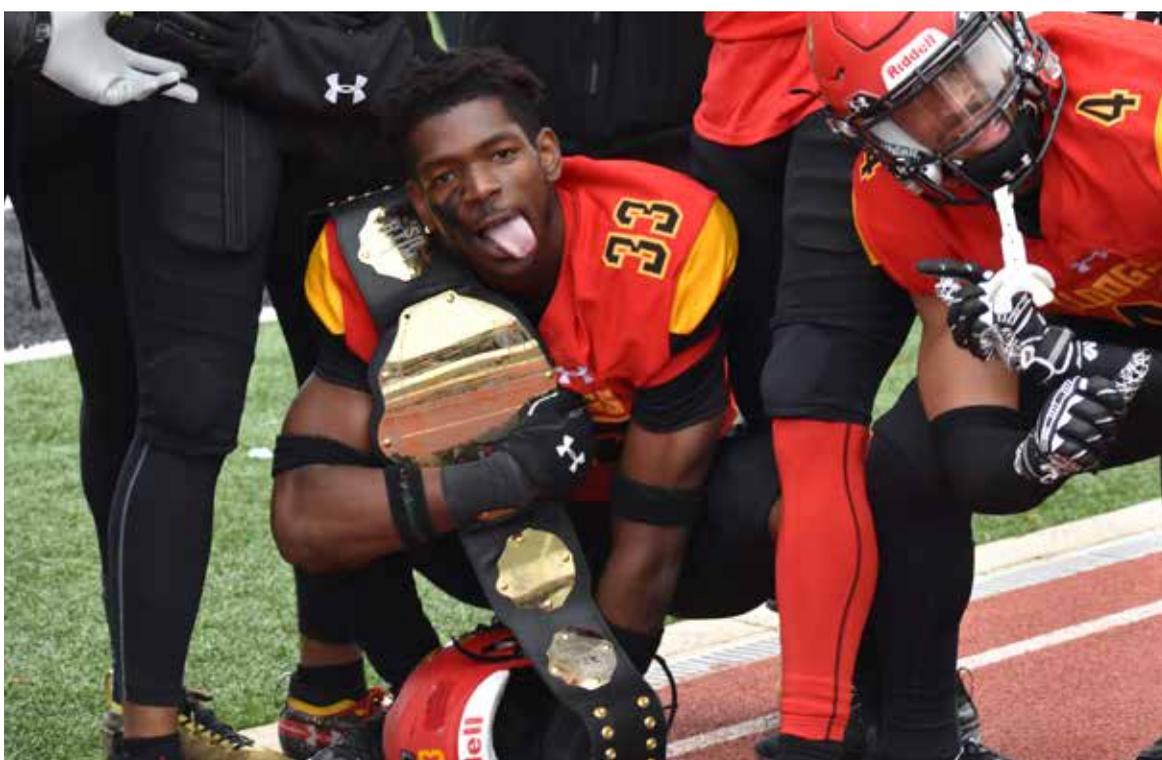


Photo by: Cora Hall | Editor in Chief

Senior defensive back James Ceasar, who was awarded GLIAC Defensive Back of the Year last season, opened up about his struggles with depression following his father’s passing.

FERRIS FANTASY FOOTBALL

Caught by the Cowboys

Virtual Ferris loses opening game in defensive struggle against Wyoming 22-13



Photo by: Brendan Sanders | Sports Editor

Virtual Ferris defensive end Austin Edwards sacks Wyoming quarterback Sean Chambers in the first quarter.

Brendan Sanders
Sports Editor

On a bright, sunny day at virtual Top Taggart Field, the Ferris State Bulldogs prepared for their first-ever Division-I football matchup. With scores of two- and three-dimensional fans in attendance, the Bulldogs held tough against the Cowboys of Wyoming University.

A defensive struggle was the order of the day as the Bulldogs struggled to stop the defensive line of Wyoming.

To open up the game, Wyoming quickly drove down the field running a balanced attack of runs and passes. They got to the two-yard line before the Bulldog defense stiffened up. Holding Wyoming to a short field goal, the Bulldogs answered with a healthy drive of their own.

In the second quarter, Ferris drove down to the goal line again with a mixture of Jayru Campbell's arm and legs. Once again though, the Bulldogs were stopped short. Another field goal was in line for the Bulldogs.

A defensive struggle entailed most of the half, with many punts keeping each team from getting momentum. That changed with a strong defensive play by the Bulldogs, with Alex Thomas picking off Wyoming QB Sean Chambers' pass and returning it for a touchdown to go up 13-3 at the half.

Late in the third quarter, Wyoming's offense kicked into gear, with multiple powerful runs up the middle by Wyoming running backs Xazavian Valladay and Trey Smith.

This allowed for a 46-yard field goal to make the score 13-6. After a Bulldog punt, the Wyoming run game took over. Running through the teeth of the Bulldog defense, Wyoming punched it in with Smith from seven yards out to tie the game at 13 apiece.

To begin the fourth quarter, Wyoming once again in field goal range, making the kick to go up 16-13 with 8:23 left. The Bulldogs offense struggled to move the ball the rest of the game, with two three and outs. Wyoming

took advantage and pulled away with another pair of field goals, leading the way to a 22-13 win.

Wyoming kicker Cooper Rothe was the star of the game making five field goals including kicks from 46 and 50 yards. Ferris kicker Jackson Dieterle made his pair of short field goals.

Quarterback Jayru Campbell got the start for the Bulldogs on the day after a close battle with Travis Russell to open the season at QB. He would have a tough day at the office, getting sacked ten times by the Cowboys defense while throwing for 222 yards on 39 attempts. Jayru Campbell also was able to lead the Bulldogs in rushing with 50 yards on 22 attempts.

Most attempts were below five yards down the field, with many throws going to running back Marvin Campbell, who had twelve receptions on the day but for only 29 yards. Xavier Wade led the team in receiving yards with 109 yards on six receptions.

Defensively, the Bulldogs allowed 311 yards. 201 yards rushing and 110 yards passing. They did achieve five sacks on the day along with scoring the only Bulldogs only touchdown. Defensive back Alex Thomas led the team in tackles with 11 along with the one interception.

The schedule does not get easier for the virtual Bulldogs, with a matchup against #16 ranked Michigan State Spartans led by quarterback Brian Lewerke, who is performing surprisingly well with four touchdowns to zero interceptions on the season.

FERRIS STATE BULLDOGS STATS

Position	Player	Stats
QB	Jayru Campbell	29/39 222 yards 0 Tds 0 Ints
RB	Marvin Campbell	10 carries 38 yards
WR1	Xavier Wade	6 rec. 109 yards
WR2	Jevon Shaw	5 rec. 54 yards
Defense	Alex Thomas	11 Tackles, 1 TFL, 1 INT
Defense	Avonte Bell	10 Tackles, 1 TFL, 1 sack
K	Jackson Dieterle	2/2 Field Goals

FERRIS FOOTBALL ALUMNI NFL STATS



CLEVELAND BROWNS
Tavierre Thomas, Cornerback
4 tackles
1 tackle for a loss
1 sack



MIAMI DOLPHINS
Zach Sieler, Defensive End
1 tackle

GREEN BAY PACKERS
Malik Taylor, Wide Receiver
1 Offensive snap
14 Special teams snaps



BUFFALO BILLS
Justin Zimmer, Defensive Tackle
4 tackles
1.5 Tackles for a loss



Brandel-Wilhelm keeping team all set to go

Women's volleyball keeps hopes alive for a season in 2021



Photo by: Hunter Pariseau | Torch Photographer

The 2019 Bulldogs volleyball team after winning the GLIAC tournament for the sixth consecutive year.

Austin Arquette
Sports Reporter

Even while a global pandemic has the world engulfed in worry, athletes hold on to hope to play their respective sports.

Back in July, the six-time defending GLIAC champions, the Ferris State women's volleyball team recently received the American Volleyball Coaches Association (AVCA) Team Academic Award honors for the 2019-2020 school year.

The team is focused on what they can control while they adapt to the continuous changes that arise while bonding more than they ever have. As the COVID-19 pandemic rages on, Ferris head volleyball coach Tia Brandel-Wilhelm keeps her team ready to compete and keep morale up. Brandel-Wilhelm said that this group of Bulldogs are a close-knit team that has been intentional about staying goal-oriented during the entire pandemic.



Tia Brandel-Wilhelm

"Right now, we are spending our time doing what we can – leadership development, team building, goal

focusing, building relationships with the new players, practicing our academic skills, and having a few Life Skills 101 sessions," Brandel-Wilhelm said. "Throughout everything, we have kept our number one priority on building our team relationships and taking care of each other. We have kept our team values at the forefront and have worked to live by those values no matter what the situation in front of us was."

Back in March, as the world started to shut down, the Bulldogs were just getting ready to start the competitive portion of their spring season. Sadly, these hopes were crushed with the cancellation of spring sports. The team decided to shift their focus to the fall season. They spent May, June, and most of July in limbo, not knowing if they would have a fall season.

"There were tough days and we reminded each other all of our preparations would help us whenever we are able to start playing," Brandel-Wilhelm said. "It was amazing to see the players work to stay ready just in case."

With no new information on how sports will look when they come back, the Ferris volleyball team will continue to stay ready and focus both on and off the court while they remain safe and healthy.

Most recently five members of the women's volleyball team were recognized as recipients of the Division II Athletic Directors Association (D2ADA) Academic Achievement Awards. The five upper-classmen honored with this award were Jackie Beaver, Courtney Brewer, Allyson Cappel, Lauren Helsen, and Katie O'Connell.

While the hope is to start a somewhat normal season soon, the Bulldogs will continue to work on their sets, develop new leaders to take the reins, come together as one team, make the newcomers feel at home, and be true Bulldogs at the center of it all. Fall sports were canceled for the GLIAC until Jan 1, 2021, as of now, but all student-athletes maintained scholarships.

"I am grateful we are all safe and healthy. I am really grateful for the challenges and the opportunity to apply our personal and team values in an uncertain, complex situation," Brandel-Wilhelm said. "My goal for all of us is that when we look back and tell our kids how we handled it. We are really proud of how we not just came through the experience but grew in ways we could never have without the COVID-ness."

Now, the team is looking forward to new information as they are hopeful for a season to come at the start of the new year.

Pre-COVID-19 sports throwback



Ferris fans gather to watch the 2019 Bulldogs Homecoming Game

Torch File Photo

OPINIONS

“The university needs to take responsibility and improve their COVID-19 testing of their students if they want to have in-person classes.”

- Cora Hall - See below for story

Marissa Russell | Opinions Editor | russem22@ferris.edu

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EDITOR'S COLUMN: Failing a dangerous test

By: Cora Hall

The United States is still very much in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. Thousands of students moved back to Big Rapids, even with remote classes. Ferris State University needs to implement mandatory, free broad testing of our students to accurately track the spread of the virus through our campus community.

The university needs to take responsibility and improve their COVID-19 testing of their students if they want to have in-person classes. After having months to prepare for the fall semester and plan for thousands of students to come back to campus, their laidback approach to testing is concerning. The only students who were required to be tested were those who moved into on-campus housing, which amounted to about 2,600 students. Testing by the university was not offered to students who do not live on campus, even if they had in person classes.

While there is not the regular amount of 10,000+ of students in Big Rapids, there are still thousands of students here, most of whom live off campus. Keeping students safe should be of utmost importance to our university, but their lack of action says differently.

The implications of relaxed testing protocols is enormous — students have already shown in the first few weeks of class that they will gather at large parties or fill local bars with no masks or social distancing. Obviously it is difficult to control that, but the university needs to provide wide spread testing so that those who inevitably contract the virus can be quarantined and not cause

a major outbreak in Big Rapids.

Our Dean of Student Life, Joy Pulsifer, may send us emails periodically to update us on the school's plan. But to sum it up, that plan is to tell students not to have parties, to wear masks and to social distance. That plan also includes relying on students to report positive cases to the website and complete the symptom checker every day, even if they aren't on campus.

“Those who choose not to follow these expectations and requirements will be held accountable through the University's disciplinary process and if applicable with municipal sanctions/fines,” Pulsifer said in an email to all students. “Minimally, students found in violation will jeopardize their ability to continue in-person at Ferris this fall. Individuals found responsible for hosting large gatherings may face additional discipline up to and including suspension from the University.”

That email was sent out to students on Aug. 25. That same night, there was video footage of a party of over 100 students outside an apartment complex off campus. No masks, no social distancing. University administrators received footage of this party and two days later sent out an email upping the possible punishment to “separation from the University” without a refund of their tuition.

The lack of effort to test students off-campus is perhaps the most concerning part of their plan. As of Sept. 8, Grand Valley State University has done similar amounts of testing—2,843 according to MLive—however,

their data shows that 90 percent of the 394 active cases were off-campus students. Only 35 students on-campus have tested positive for COVID-19. MLive's article also notes that 95 of the confirmed cases were gathered from GVSU's testing partnership with Spectrum Health.

I went through the COVID-19 testing process at Spectrum Health on Friday—largely for precautionary reasons due to a small chance I had been exposed and had planned to go home. For the record, I tested negative.

In the questionnaire on Spectrum's app when making a COVID screening or testing appointment, there's a question that asks if you are a student or staff member at GVSU. Why does Ferris not have this? Are we seriously going to rely on students to report their positive tests? I know students who have shown COVID-19 symptoms and won't even go get tested because they're positive it's just a cold or the seasonal flu.

Spectrum Health Hospital is the only testing location in Big Rapids. Having the same partnership with them as GVSU would be a great way to help track the number of positive cases among students and staff. Both GVSU and Central Michigan University are tracking off campus “hot spots” connected to their positive cases. GVSU has a COVID Health Line to help students schedule testing and they are testing high-risk groups regularly—they list athletes, resident assistants and critical personnel.

The university needs to take some accountability, and they

need to do it now.

The university's newest slogan is “Ferris Forward.” Tell me, how is it forward thinking to go into the school year with a plan that is highly reactionary and not precautionary? To not offer free testing to your whole student body in order to curb adn track infection rates? To put all the responsibility of the success of this plan on students?

I get that we are adults. I get that part of the responsibility is on us, and I'm willing to do my part. But not everyone is, and the university is operating under the assumption that they are.

There is no way there are only 53 cases of COVID-19 in Big Rapids after two full weeks of classes.

There needs to be widespread testing for our student body in Big Rapids and positive cases need to be reported in this county. Students deserve the transparency to know how safe they are and be able to make informed decisions for themselves. The university should be funding the testing as well, since students are already paying full tuition for remote learning.

Ferris needs to take a step back and realize their students' safety is more important than trying to make it look like our numbers are low.

GOT AN OPINION?

HOW TO SUBMIT A LETTER TO THE EDITOR:

Deadline for submissions every Friday by 5 p.m.

Marissa Russell | Opinions Editor |
Email: russem22@ferris.edu

1. Think of a topic that you feel strongly about.
2. Write out your thoughts in a coherent and respectful manner.
3. Include a headshot and some information about yourself (location, age, etc.).
4. Email your opinion to russem22@ferris.edu for a chance to have your work published in our next issue!

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The **Torch** is now hiring for :

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- **Production Assistant**
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DIVIDED OPINIONS

Harley Quinn

Harley Quinn is the badest bitch to ever hit the comic book universe and she is 100 percent human. She doesn't care what anyone thinks about her and she's ready to do something crazy at any second. Growing up I always felt bad for her because the Joker was verbally and physically abusive to her even though she would do anything and everything for him. But this was only one version of Harley Quinn. Just like many superheroes there are different personality types.

Harley Quinn isn't your average superhero, some would argue that she isn't a superhero at all. But seeing more and more of Harley Quinn and getting to know her inner self you can see she has a lot of good inside and was just introduced to the wrong people.

After *Suicide Squad* came out, I really got to see another side of Harley Quinn. She was the only girl for part of the movie who was fighting villains, showing that she was just as good of a fighter, if not better, than the guys. She was extremely feminine, but could still kick butt. I loved this because it always feels like I am fighting between being girly looking and taken seriously or looking scary even. She showed me that I could do both.

Harley Quinn also showed me that it is harder to live for someone than it is to die for them. Through out the movie she is trying to get back to the Joker and prove that she is willing to



Marissa Russell
Lifestyles and
Opinions Editor

go through hell and back to be with him. Harley also went back into the fight after she thought the Joker was dead because, in my opinion, she wanted to help her friends and save the world and didn't care if she lived or died through the fight because her "puddin" was gone.

While Harley Quinn wasn't always ready to fight against the Joker she was ready to throw hands with anyone that went against her beliefs. There was a lot of fights between her and her anti-heroine Catwoman in the comic books and cartoon proving that she could handle herself in a fight.

Harley Quinn proved she wasn't some blonde bozo. Harley had a PhD in psychiatry, being one of few heroes who had a real job prior to being a superhero.

In the movie she seemed to have a normal life before the Joker showed up; no dead parents, no horrible mutations done to her. Just an average girl. This also sets her apart from the other heroes because it makes her more relatable to viewers. She didn't need something horrible happen to her, other than the Joker setting his focus on her, to make her extraordinary.

Who is the best superhero?

Spiderman

It's not how you use the powers you are given, it's how you face adversity time and time again and always put others above yourself.

Whether you see Spider-Man in a comic book, or on screen you can always just hear his Uncle Ben's words, "with great power comes great responsibility." Spider-Man will always be the best superhero because from such a young age from when he was bitten by that radioactive spider and developed his powers, he has always used them for the greater good. From the moment he gained his powers he has always defended New York City regardless of what is happening in his normal life as a Peter Parker.

Spider-Man takes on defending all of New York City by himself with not just his superpowers from the spider bite, but also his high-level intelligence. While juggling his alter ego as a normal teenager in high school with bullies, girls, a job, and his Aunt May. Spider-Man consistently has taken out multiple villains on numerous occasions while still dealing with

his everyday life away from heroics.

Spider-Man is a high-class superhero who puts his responsibilities above all else, and he is also the most comical hero figure. With all his witty comebacks when fighting villains to his humor as just normal Peter Parker, Spider-Man is an adult humor machine. No matter the situation Spider-Man constantly comes up with some sort of sarcastic humor that's fun for all ages regardless of if you like the hero or not.

While often it's his responsibilities that make Spider-Man who he is, it is also his willpower to continue fighting against any odds to do what is right in the world and for the safety of everyone. Countless times he is beaten within an inch of his life and still comes back to win and save the day while continuing into the next day. Spidey is consistently known for defeating the sinister six multiple times of different factions all alone while he saves citizens and protects

the world from devastation.

Spidey was a founding member of the superhero age by Stan Lee back in Aug. 1962 and is still a front runner of the greatest superheroes today. Spider-Man is also known to be a great partner in battle because he will never let you down and is an incredible teammate. He will never let you handle things on your own and will always do whatever he can to save the villain within before taking him down.

Spidey has the reputation of always being the responsible hero but when times get tough, he is a natural born leader and can always be trusted to get the job done and save the day, regardless if it's in his tights or just being himself. The best thing about Spidey is how no matter what he always comes back and moves into the next day.



Austin Arquette
Torch Reporter

Disney releases: make or break?

Disney has been releasing live action remakes of old-time classics leaving many with mixed feelings



Matthew Miller
Torch Reporter

With Disney's new release of the *Mulan* remake, it got me thinking that I might as well have a Disney marathon.

As I sat down on a Tuesday evening in my living room wearing only my boxers and my socks, with a bowl of popcorn sitting on my lap I cracked open a half gallon of tequila and began my Disney remake binge watch.

Yes, I know what some of your thinking. I did pay \$30 to watch the new *Mulan* and no I don't think I wasted the money. The movie was good, and I do get to watch it as many times as I want. It is not a two-day rental type deal. The movie

brought back many memories, but I will tell you it's very different from the old animated version that came out in 1998. I encourage everyone to watch the new one that came out but be ready for disappointment by some things that aren't exactly the same.

After I finished the new *Mulan*, I thought to myself, "you know that isn't exactly what I remember." So when I turned on the new *Aladdin* that was remade, I thought to myself "I'll watch this one and really look for the differences." Again, this is a movie is made by Disney and I thought they did a very good job with the new version, but it was different. At least with this one I can say they kept most of the old songs but threw in another plot twist.

What came next in the line of Disney

movies to watch was none other than the beloved *Lion King*. I thought this movie was exceptional. I loved it. I love the characters, cast, and the way that every animal was portrayed. There's absolutely no way I could ever hate on this movie. They stuck to the original as a best they could. They were able to bring me to tears again when Mufasa dies and joy and laughter throughout the entire movie and to Disney I say, well done.

Now around the 1 a.m., I had to watch at least one more movie. The final movie I chose was *Beauty and The Beast*. This movie was different than the others since I had disliked the animated version, but it is hands-down my favorite live action movie that Disney has created. I don't know why. Maybe I have a secret crush on Emma Watson, who knows!

But what I will tell you that the feeling I have with all these new remakes, whether I enjoy them or not, is that it's bullshit.

Disney is a huge corporation that is just hell-bent on making as much money as they possibly can. The remake of *Mulan* had a budget of \$200 million. They are predicted to make \$270 million and already in less than a week have made 12 million. This was also released on a streaming platform which you pay monthly to get access to.

I also believe that this could change the way that Disney will release movies in the future. If they no longer release them to movie theaters and you must access them through a streaming platform, they will be making double the money even faster.

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